

QUALITY
COMIC
PUBLICATION



DECEMBER No. 8

10c ICD 12

**THE
CHINATOWN
MURDERS**



The image is a dense collage of vintage comic book covers, primarily from the mid-20th century. The covers are arranged in a grid-like fashion, overlapping slightly. Titles visible include "Supermouse", "Jetta", "Mystery Comics", "Fantastic Tales", "Cosmo Cat", "Startling Comics", "Strange Mysteries", "Daring Adventures", "Famous Funnies", "Hilarious Raucous", "Teen-Age Sweetheart", "Duck", "Eerie", "Exciting Comics", "Casper Cat", "Barnyard Comics", "Stranger Worlds", "Captain Future", "Snake Eyes", "Miss Masque", and "Quick Lunch". The central focus is a large, purple speech bubble with a black outline, containing the text "WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The overall aesthetic is colorful and nostalgic, representing a collection of classic comic book art.



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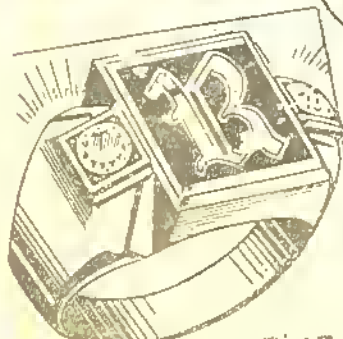
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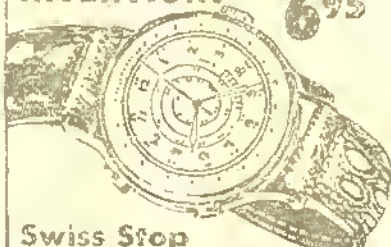


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11 — Wonder Features — 11

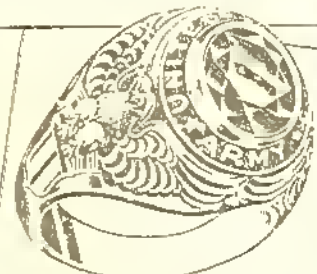
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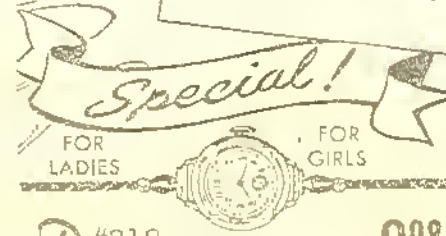
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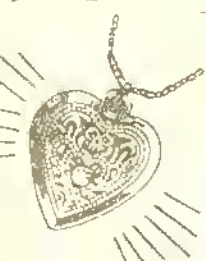
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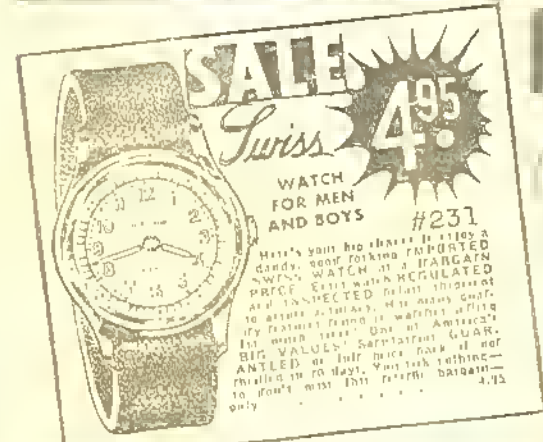


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KEN SHANNON

I MUST LOOK EVEN MORE STUPID THAN I AM! OR ELSE WHY DO THEY KEEP FEEDING CASES TO ME THAT WOULD ONLY MAKE SENSE TO A REFUGEE FROM A LUNATIC ASYLUM? BEING A PRIVATE EYE ISN'T THE SOFT SNAP YOU'D IMAGINE FROM THAT ROMANTIC ADVENTURE STUFF DISHED OUT ON RADIO AND TELEVISION! IN REAL LIFE, A WELL-MEANING PRIVATE EYE WILL MOST LIKELY WIND UP BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL, AS I DID IN THE CASE OF THE

MANSION OF MANGLED MEN!



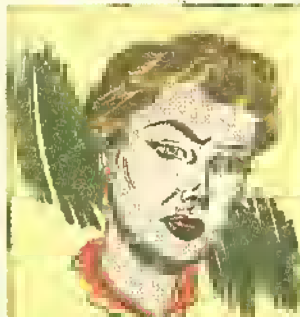
HENRY CARLTON

HE WANTED TO LEAVE A FORTUNE TO SOMEONE... BUT THE HEIRS KEPT TURNING UP DEAD!



BOB CARLTON

HE NEEDED UNCLE HENRY'S MONEY BADLY! IF HE DIDN'T GET IT, HE'D BE KILLED! IF HE DID GET IT, HE WAS SLATED TO BE A MURDER VICTIM, ANYHOW!



JANICE

BOB'S WIFE AND THE CHIEF REASON HE NEEDED MONEY! EVEN THE U.S. TREASURY DIDN'T PRINT ENOUGH OF THE STUFF TO SATISFY HER!



MARTY RICO

HE LIKED TO BE PAID OFF, IN FULL! BUT HE WAS SURPRISED AT THE WAY IN WHICH THE PAYOFF WAS MADE!

KEN SHANNON

I'M ONLY HUMAN, AND WHEN SOMEBODY PUSHES A WAD OF BILLS IN FRONT OF MY FACE I CAN'T HELP STARTING TO SALIVATE A LITTLE...

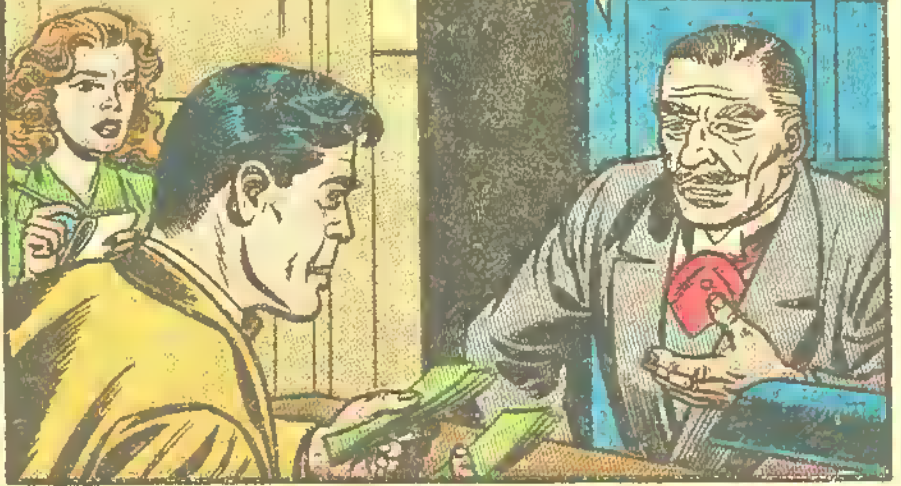
IS THIS ENOUGH FOR A RETAINER, MR. SHANNON?

ULP!



I GUESS IT'LL DO, MR. CARLTON! JUST GIVE ME THE NAME OF THE MAN YOU WANT ME TO MURDER!

DON'T JEST, MR. SHANNON, PLEASE! I'M IN DEADLY EARNEST! I WANT YOU TO BE A WITNESS THIS EVENING WHEN I SIGN MY NEW WILL!



I ALSO WANT YOU TO MAKE SURE THAT I LIVE TO SIGN IT! YOU SEE, I INTEND TO LEAVE MY ENTIRE FORTUNE TO MY NEPHEW, BOB, AND LEAVE OUT ENTIRELY HIS BROTHER, JOHN, WHOM I HAVEN'T SEEN FOR YEARS!



AND YOU THINK SOME OF YOUR OTHER RELATIVES MIGHT OBJECT... VIOLENTLY!

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE, MR. SHANNON! YOU SEE, MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS AGO ONE OF MY ANCESTORS TRIED TO DO THE SAME THING I'M PLANNING TO DO TONIGHT!

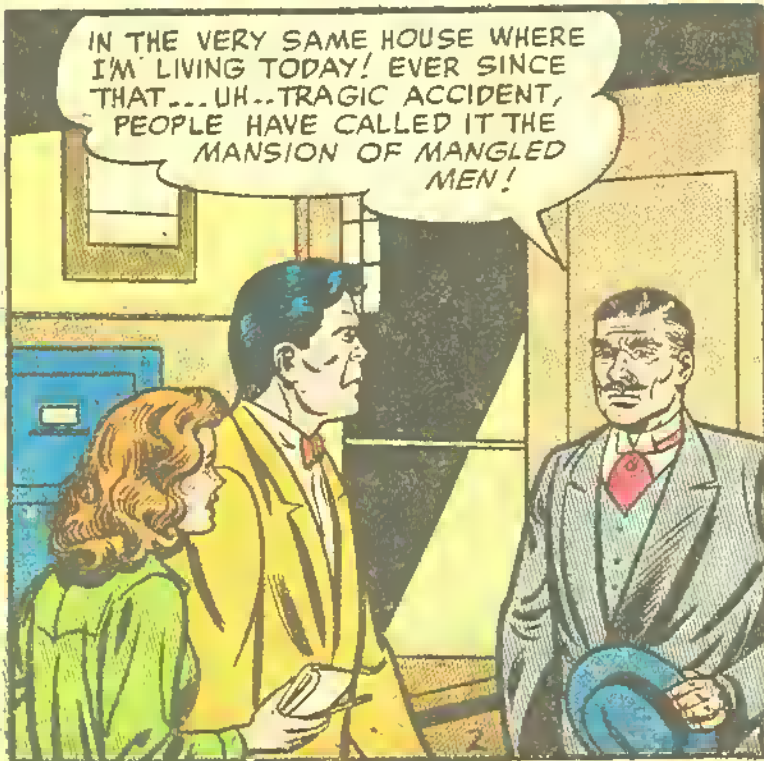


HE SET OFF A BLOOD FIGHT THAT ENDED IN A WHOLESALE MASSACRE! FIVE PEOPLE WERE FOUND DEAD, THE NEXT DAY, WITH THEIR HEADS BASHED IN!

WHEW! WHERE DID THIS HAPPEN?



IN THE VERY SAME HOUSE WHERE I'M LIVING TODAY! EVER SINCE THAT... UH... TRAGIC ACCIDENT, PEOPLE HAVE CALLED IT THE MANSION OF MANGLED MEN!



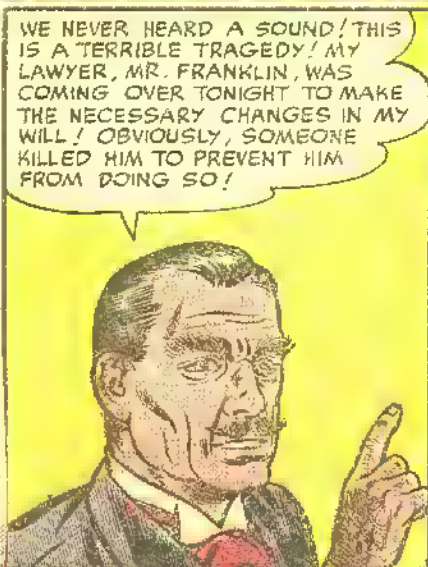
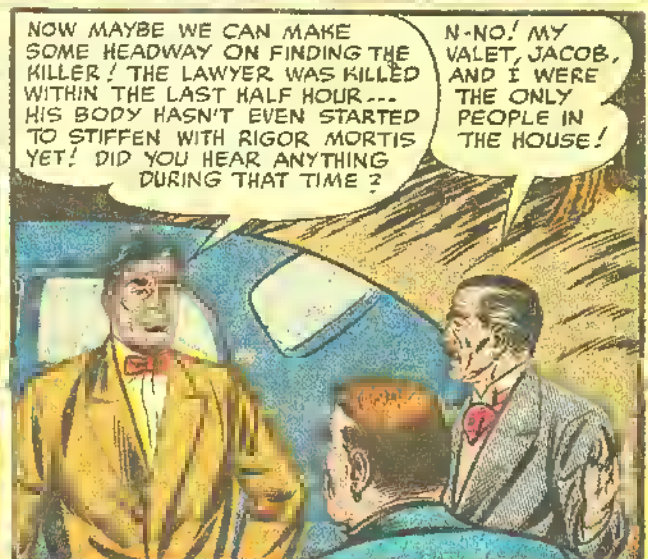
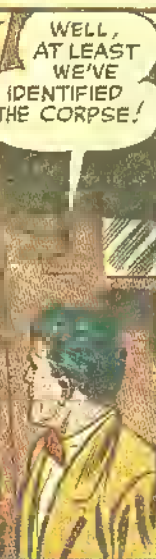
HENRY CARLTON'S HOME WAS WELL NAMED! IT LOOKED LIKE A STAGE SETTING RIGHT OUT OF BORIS KARLOFF'S LATEST MOVIE! THAT NIGHT, AS DEE DEE AND I DROVE TOWARD IT...

BRRR! IMAGINE LIVING IN A HOUSE WHERE FIVE PEOPLE WERE MURDERED!

I HOPE THEY PAINTED OUT THE BLOOD-STAINS ON THE WALLS!



KEN SHANNON



KEN SHANNON

LEUTENANT ART CLYDE WASN'T EXACTLY ENTRANCED TO HEAR FROM ME AGAIN! FROM THE WAY ART ACTS SOMETIMES, YOU'D THINK I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THE MURDERS I TOSS INTO HIS LAP!

ANY VAMPIRES IN YOUR FAMILY, KEN? YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO BE AROUND WHEN THERE'S BLOOD BEING SHED!

CUT THE COMEDY, ART! YOU OUGHT TO BE GRATEFUL THAT I'M DOING PART OF YOUR WORK FOR YOU!



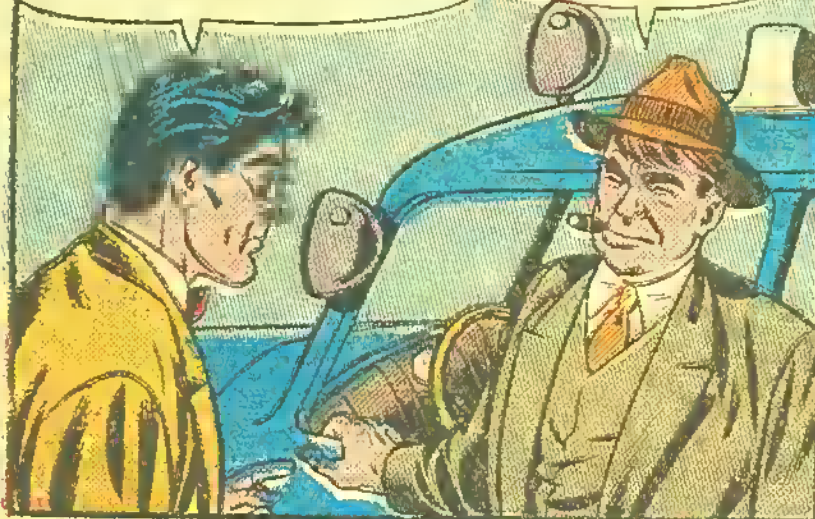
YOU MEAN YOU'VE DUG UP A SUSPECT?

FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU CAN ABOUT A CERTAIN JOHN CARLTON! HE'S UNCLE HENRY'S OTHER NEPHEW...THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO BE DISINHERITED!



IF ANYBODY'S GOT A MOTIVE, HE'S THE ONE! JOHN'S SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF THE ADVENTUROUS TYPES! AT THE MOMENT, RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE'S TRAIPSING AROUND TIBET!

HMM! BUT YOU THINK HE MIGHT BE A LOT CLOSER TO HOME, EH? IT'S WORTH LOOKING INTO, KEN!



WHEN I RETURNED TO MY CLIENT HE WAS DEEP IN CONVERSATION WITH A YOUNG COUPLE!

OH, HELLO, SHANNON! I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY NEPHEW, BOB, AND HIS WIFE JANICE!

KENNY!



YOU SWEET THING! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE I WORKED AT THE SILVER SLIPPER NIGHT CLUB!

UH...YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, JANICE!



I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU'D... ER... GOTTEN MARRIED SINCE THEN!

OH, BOB, I WANT YOU TO MEET A REAL OLD FRIEND OF MINE... PRIVATE DETECTIVE KEN SHANNON!



BOB GAVE ME A HAND AS LIMP AS A WET WASHCLOTH!

SO PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MR. SHANNON!

LIKE FUN HE IS! HE'S SO JEALOUS HE'S NEARLY CHOKING!



KEN SHANNON

OF COURSE, I COULDN'T BLAME BOB CARLSON FOR BEING JEALOUS! A DAME LIKE JANICE IS THE TYPE YOU HAVE TO KEEP ON A TIGHT LEASH!

UNCLE HENRY TOLD US ALL ABOUT THE NASTY MURDER! HE SAYS THAT WE'RE ALL IN DANGER! BUT YOU'LL PROTECT ME, WON'T YOU, KENNY BOY?

I'LL DO MY BEST!

OH, YOU SWE-EEET THING!

ULP!

I WAS GLAD TO GET AWAY FROM JANICE AND PUT MY MIND BACK ON BUSINESS AGAIN! I FIGURED THAT, WITH BOB CARLTON IN THE HOUSE, THE KILLER WAS LIKELY TO TRY AGAIN! SO I SENT DEE DEE HOME AND PREPARED FOR AN ALL NIGHT VIGIL!

UH-OH! I WAS RIGHT!

NEVER MIND COMING OUT, BUSTER! I'LL COME IN!

UHHHH!

IT WAS ROUGH WORK, FIGHTING IN THAT THORNY UNDER-GROWTH! BUT I FINALLY GOT THIS GEEZER STRAIGHTENED UP FOR A KEN SHANNON SPECIAL!

And I LET HIM HAVE IT!

KA-THUMP!

KEN SHANNON

QUITE A LONG WHILE PASSED BEFORE HE SHOWED ANY SIGNS OF COMING BACK TO LIFE...

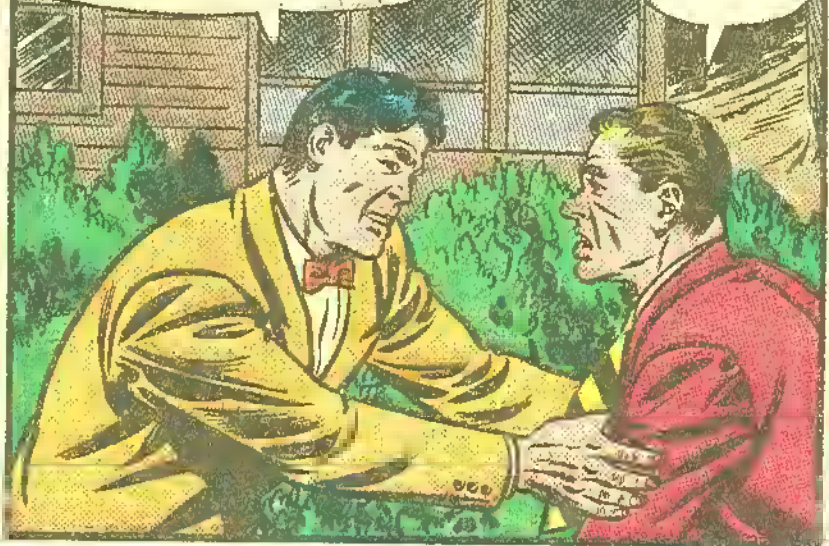
SOMEDAY YOU'RE GONNA KILL SOMEBODY WITH THAT WALLOP OF YOURS, SHAMUS!

YOURS IS THE CHIN I LOVE TO TOUCH!



IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, MARTY RICO! OUR PREVIOUS DISAGREEMENTS HAD TO DO WITH YOUR SWANK GAMBLING CLUB AND THE SUCKERS YOU FLEECED THERE! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER TIED YOU INTO --- MURDER!

YOU'RE CRAZY!



I NEVER KILLED ANYBODY! I DON'T EVEN PACK A ROD! EVERYBODY KNOWS MARTY RICO ISN'T A GUN GUY!

MAYBE THE STAKES JUST WEREN'T HIGH ENOUGH BEFORE! THEY'VE RAISED THE ANTE TO NEARLY A MILLION BUCKS HERE!

THAT KIND OF MOOLAH WOULD BRING OUT THE KILLER INSTINCT EVEN IN A PLAY-IT-SAFE GAMBLER LIKE YOU!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! I CAME HERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON BOB CARLTON!

KEEP TALKING! WHY ARE YOU SO INTERESTED IN BOB CARLTON?

H-HE'S A C-CLIENT OF MINE! LOST A LOT OF MONEY AT MY GAMBLING TABLES! THEN HE DIDN'T HAVE IT TO PAY OFF!



I TOOK HIS I.O.U.'S ON THE PROMISE HE WAS GOING TO COLLECT A FORTUNE FROM HIS UNCLE HENRY! SOMETHING ABOUT A WILL BEING CHANGED IN HIS FAVOR...

YOU KNOW, RICO, I COULD ALMOST BELIEVE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH!

WE'LL CHECK YOUR STORY WITH BOB CARLTON, THOUGH! HE'LL TELL US WHETHE...

EEEEAAH!



THAT SCREAM WAS WRENCHED OUT OF A MAN'S DYING BREATH! I WASTED NO TIME LOOKING FOR AN ENTRANCE, AND MARTY RICO WASN'T FAR BEHIND ME...



BOB CARLTON!



HE'S DEAD! HIS HEAD CRUSHED LIKE AN EGG-SHELL! THE MURDERER CAN'T... OH-OH!



HE WAS STILL IN THE ROOM!

WAIT!



YOU'D BETTER CALL THE POLICE! THIS IS MURDER!

HUH? THIS IS NO TIME FOR HYSTERICS, RICO!



OUT OF MY WAY!

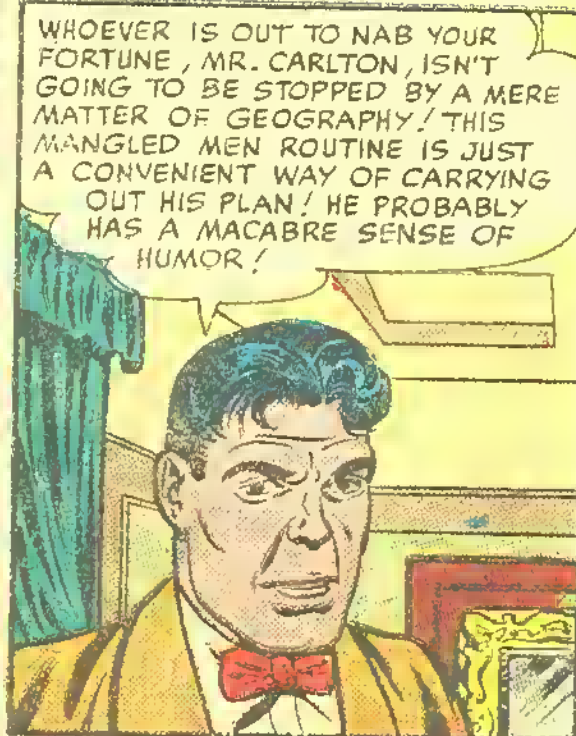
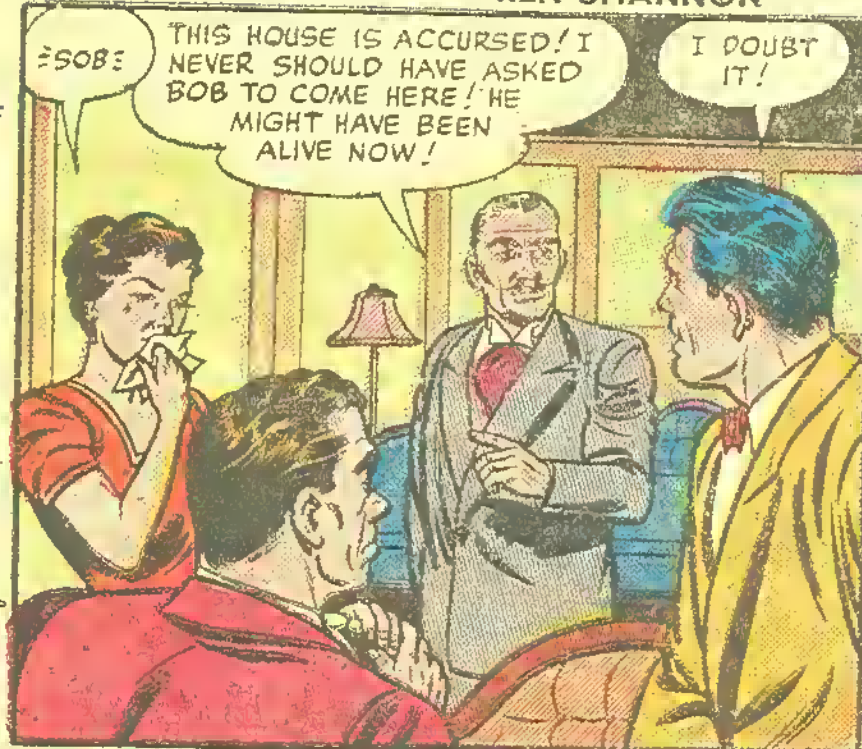
OH-HH!



MARTY RICO DELAYED ME JUST A INSTANT TOO LONG!

THE KILLER'S GONE! NO TELLING WHETHER HE TOOK THE STAIRS, OR EXITED THROUGH ONE OF THOSE DOORS!

THERE WAS NO USE CRYING OVER SPOILED CHANCES! AFTER LIEUTENANT CLYDE HAD COME AND GONE AGAIN, THINGS WERE PRETTY GRIM IN THE CARLTON MANSION...



WHEN I HUNG UP THE PHONE, I WAS PLENTY ROCKED! JOHN CARLTON HAD BEEN THE ONE WITH THE LOGICAL MOTIVE IN THIS SCREWY CASE, AND NOW HE'D BEEN ELIMINATED... IN MOST CONVINCING FASHION!



THERE'S A LOT TO BE SAID FOR CONVENTIONAL POLICE METHODS! SO I STARTED GOING OVER THAT HOUSE WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB...

ART CLYDE'S BOYS DID A SEARCH JOB! BUT THERE'S JUST A CHANCE THEY OVERLOOKED SOMETHING!



LIKE THE MURDER WEAPON, FOR INSTANCE!



A CLAW HAMMER...PACKED AWAY IN THE LOWER DRAWER OF THE VALET'S ROOM! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE? JACOB PROBABLY STANDS TO INHERIT QUITE A HUNK OF LOOT UNDER THE TERMS OF THAT WILL!



A PISTOL SHOT INTERRUPTED MY TRAIN OF THOUGHT...

??

BLAM!



NOT AGAIN! HOW WILL I EVER EXPLAIN ANOTHER CORPSE TO LIEUTENANT ART CLYDE?



MARTY RICO!

WE FOUND HIM LIKE THIS, SHANNON! HE BLEW OUT HIS BRAINS WITH A PISTOL SHOT!



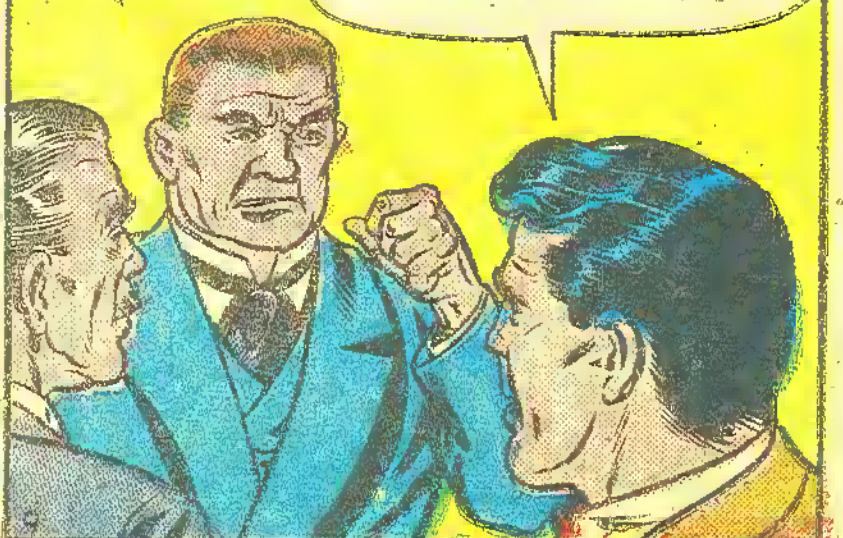
APPARENTLY EVEN HE WAS NOT SAFE FROM THE DOOM THAT LIES UPON THIS HOUSE!

RICO LEFT A CONFESSION! SAYS HE BUMPED OFF THE LAWYER AS A WARNING TO BOB TO PAY UP... AND THEN HAD TO MURDER BOB WHEN HE REFUSED TO SQUARE THE ACCOUNT!



I SHOULD HAVE STRANGLED THAT NO GOOD GANGSTER WITH MY BARE HANDS!

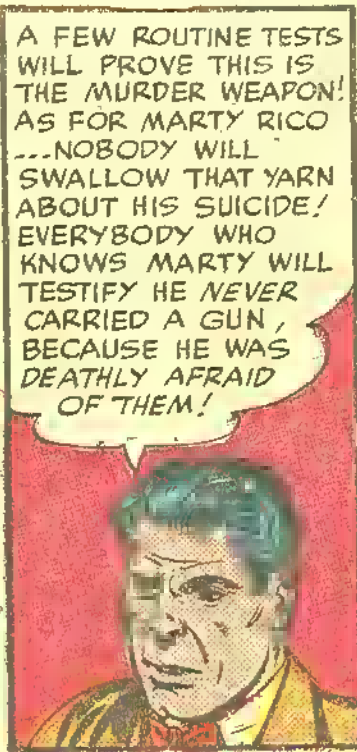
NO, JACOB! THAT WOULDN'T HAVE BORNE OUT THE SUICIDE THEORY! WHEN MARTY TRIED TO BLACKMAIL YOU FOR MURDER, YOU FORCED HIM TO WRITE THAT CONFESSION...AND THEN SHOT HIM!



KEN SHANNON



ME? YOU MUST BE CRAZY! THEN MAYBE YOU CAN EXPLAIN HOW I HAPPENED TO FIND THIS CLAW HAMMER IN YOUR ROOM?

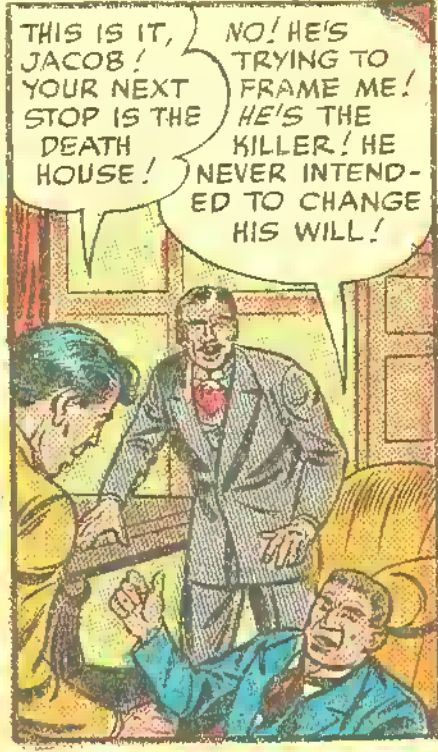


A FEW ROUTINE TESTS WILL PROVE THIS IS THE MURDER WEAPON! AS FOR MARTY RICO... NOBODY WILL SWALLOW THAT YARN ABOUT HIS SUICIDE! EVERYBODY WHO KNOWS MARTY WILL TESTIFY HE NEVER CARRIED A GUN, BECAUSE HE WAS DEATHLY AFRAID OF THEM!



JACOB MADE A GROWLING NOISE IN HIS THROAT AND RUSHED ME! BUT I WAS MORE THAN READY!

BOP!



THIS IS IT, JACOB! YOUR NEXT STOP IS THE DEATH HOUSE!

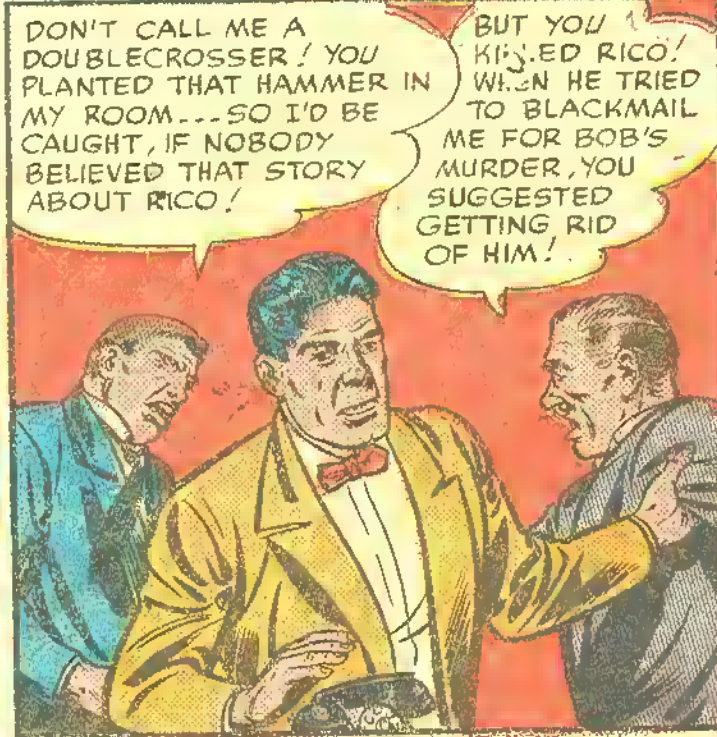
NO! HE'S TRYING TO FRAME ME! HE'S THE KILLER! HE NEVER INTENDED TO CHANGE HIS WILL!

WHEN JACOB STARTED TO SING, NO NIGHTINGALE COULD HAVE TOUCHED HIM! I HAD TO HOLD HENRY CARLTON BACK FROM LEAPING AT HIM AND RENDING HIM TO BITS!



HENRY SQUANDERED ALL THE MONEY HIS BROTHER LEFT! HE WAS SUPPOSED TO TURN IT OVER TO HIS BROTHER'S SONS WHEN THEY CAME OF AGE! IF THEY'D FOUND OUT WHAT HE DID, HENRY WOULD HAVE GONE TO JAIL FOR EMBEZZLEMENT!

WHY, YOU DOUBLE-CROSSING..



DON'T CALL ME A DOUBLECROSSER! YOU PLANTED THAT HAMMER IN MY ROOM... SO I'D BE CAUGHT, IF NOBODY BELIEVED THAT STORY ABOUT RICO!

BUT YOU KISS'ED RICO! WHEN HE TRIED TO BLACKMAIL ME FOR BOB'S MURDER, YOU SUGGESTED GETTING RID OF HIM!



DON'T ARGUE, BOYS! YOU CAN SIT IN EACH OTHER'S LAP WHEN THEY STRAP YOU INTO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!

LUCKY FOR ME I GOT THAT FAT RETAINER! HENRY CARLTON WASN'T IN ANY MOOD TO PAY THE REST OF MY FEE, AFTER THEY ARRESTED HIM! BUT I GOT A KIND OF BONUS, LATER...



FLOWERS... FROM MY OLD FRIEND, JANICE!

SHE ENCLOSES A CARD WITH HER PHONE NUMBER! AND IF YOU EVER USE IT, KEN SHANNON, YOU'LL BE A MANGLED MAN!

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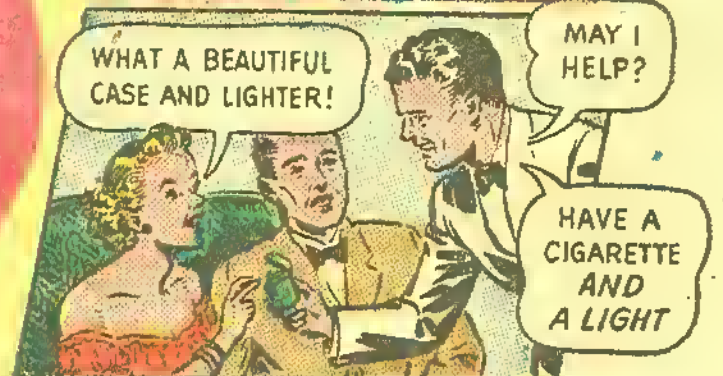
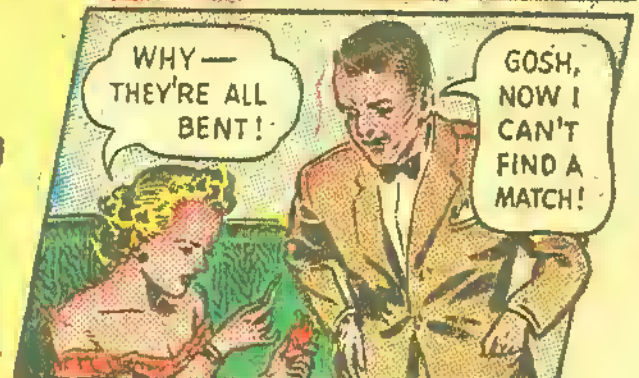
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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

NAME TO BE ENGRAVED _____

(Print Name)

KEN SHANNON

ANGLES O'DAY

WE'RE EXPECTIN
A CERTAIN IRISHMAN,
NAME OF O'DAY!
YOU LOOK IRISH
TO ME!... WHAT'S
YOUR NAME?

WULP! NO
SPIKA DA
ENGLISH!

ANGLES O'DAY DROPS IN TO
A CAFE TO SPEND A COUPLE
OF HOURS BUT NEARLY
REMAINS FOR THE REST OF
HIS LIFE - WHICH IS ONLY A
COUPLE OF MINUTES IF
DIRTY LOOIE HAS HIS WAY!

THE RECENT
KIDNAPPING
OF SQUIRE
MC GUIRE'S
DAUGHTER
HAS THE
WHOLE TOWN
IN AN
UPROAR!

THE BOYS
IN POPO'S
POOL
PARLOR
HAVE A
SPECIAL
INTEREST
IN THE CASE...

AND FOR
VERY
GOOD
REASON...

NO KIDDING,
O'DAY... YOU MEAN
SQUIRE MC GUIRE
IS HIRING YOU
TO DELIVER THE
RANSOM MONEY
TO THE KID-
NAPPERS?

WHO ELSE? I'M
TO PICK UP THE
TWENTY GRAND
FROM MC GUIRE
TOMORROW
NIGHT AND MEET
THE THUGS AT
A SECRET SPOT
FOR THE BIG
PAY OFF!

GEE, ANGLES,
IT SOUNDS
DANGEROUS!
WHY YOU
MIGHT GET
KILT!

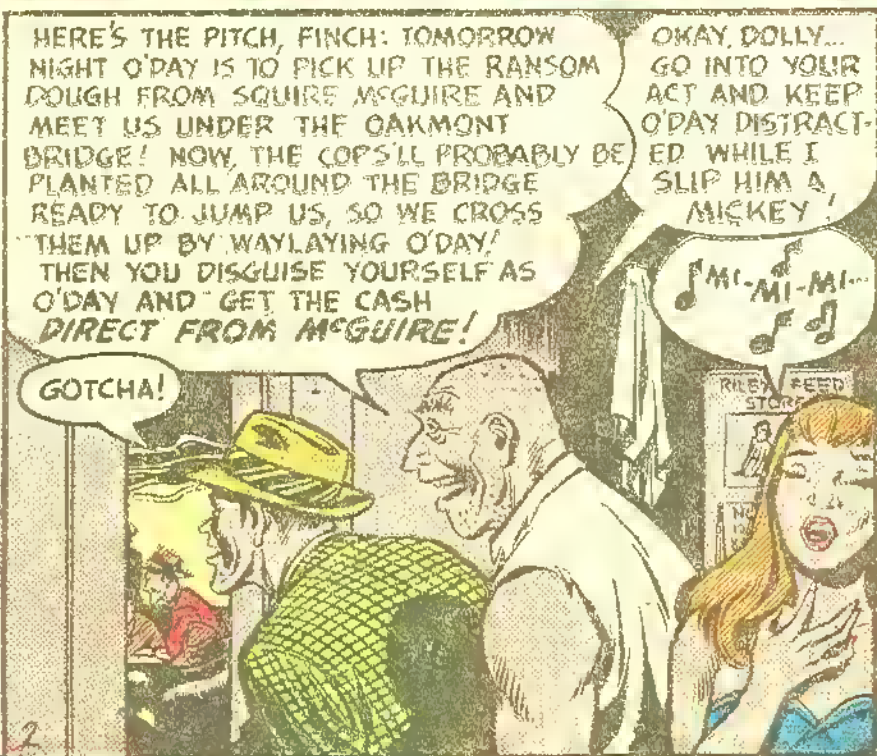
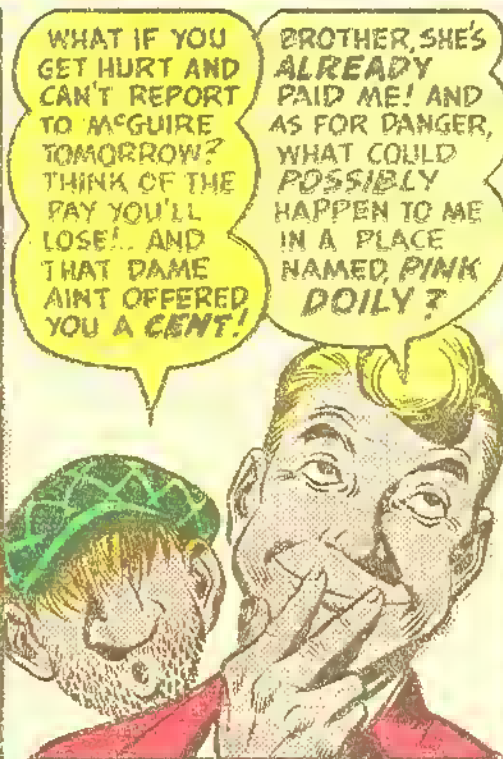
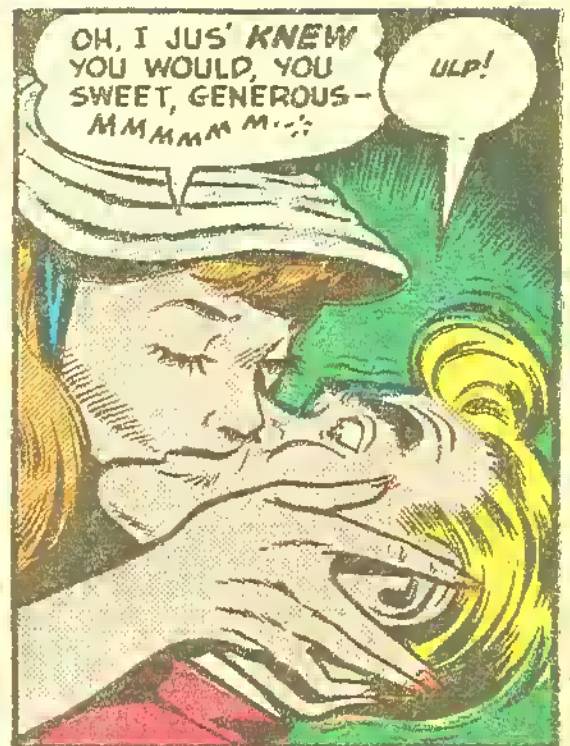
WHERE'S
THE DANGER
IF I KNOW
O'DAY, HE'LL
DROP THE
DOUGH AND
RUN LIKE A
FLUSHED
DEER!

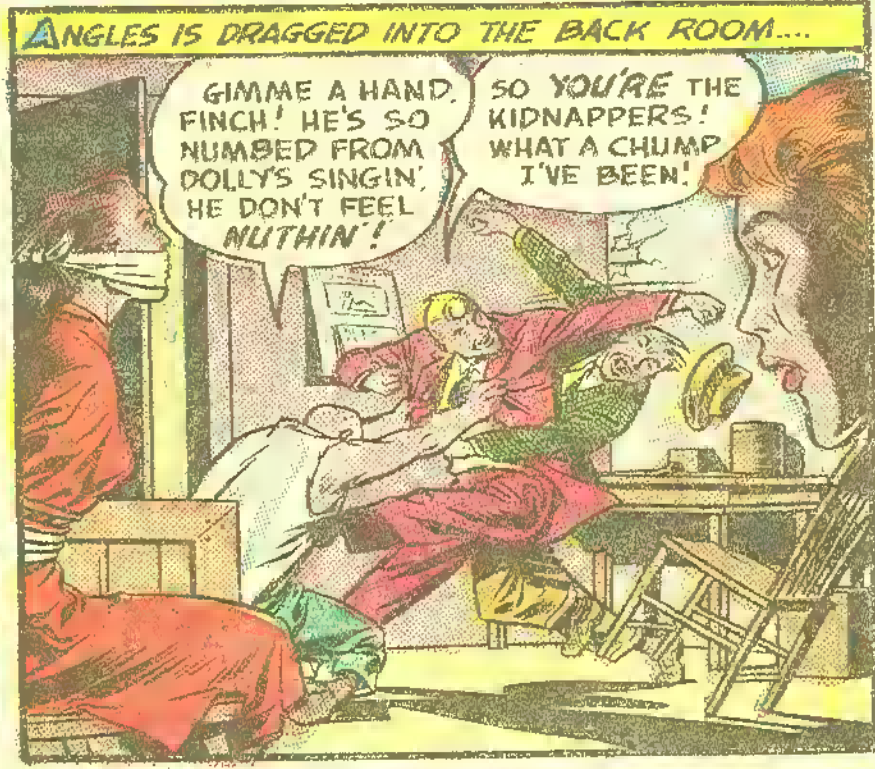
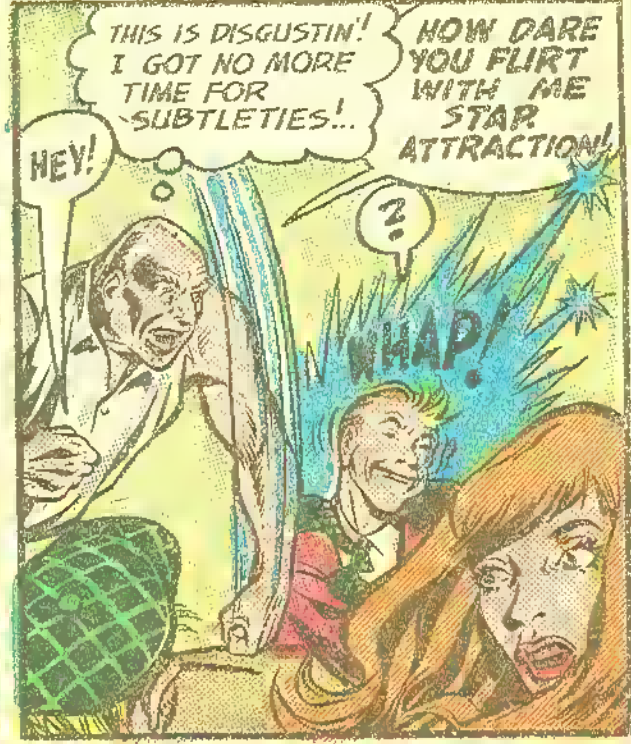
OH YEAH?
EITHER THEY
TURN OVER
THE GIRL TO
ME OR I
DON'T GIVE
THEM A
NICKEL!

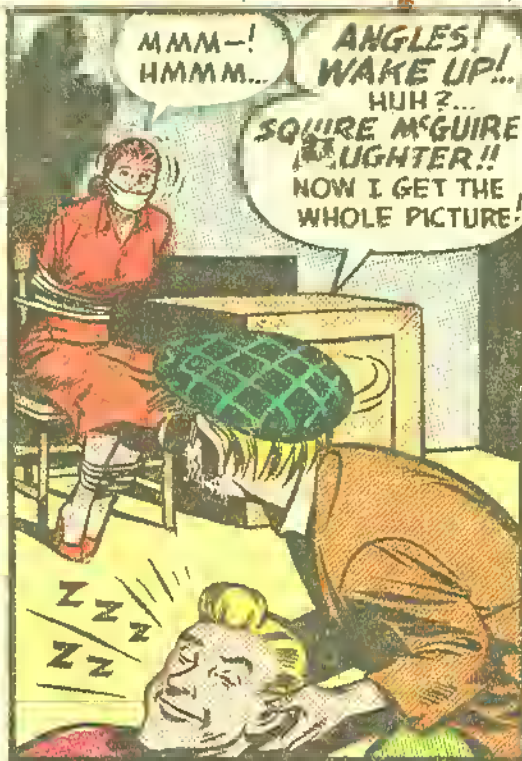
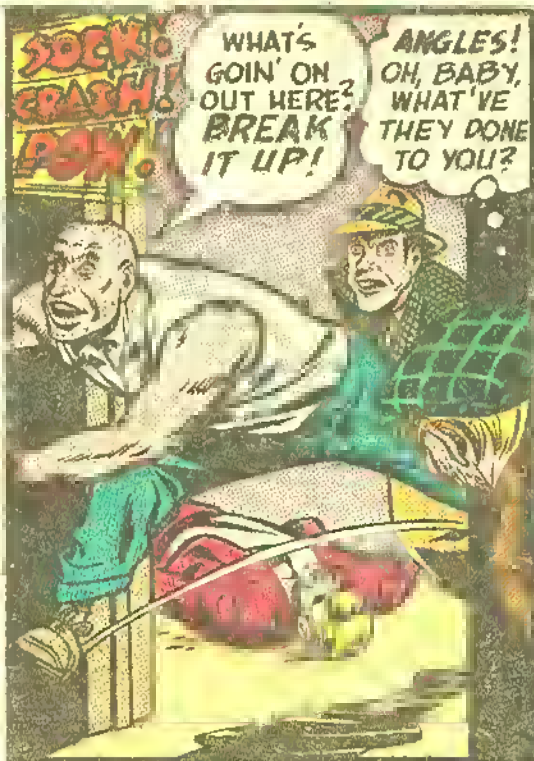
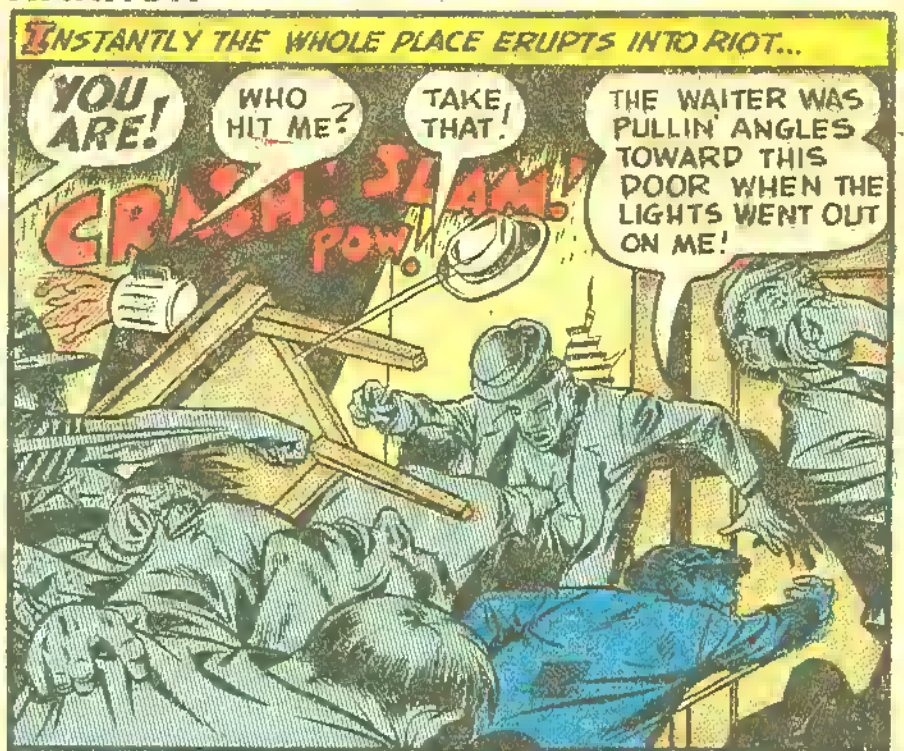
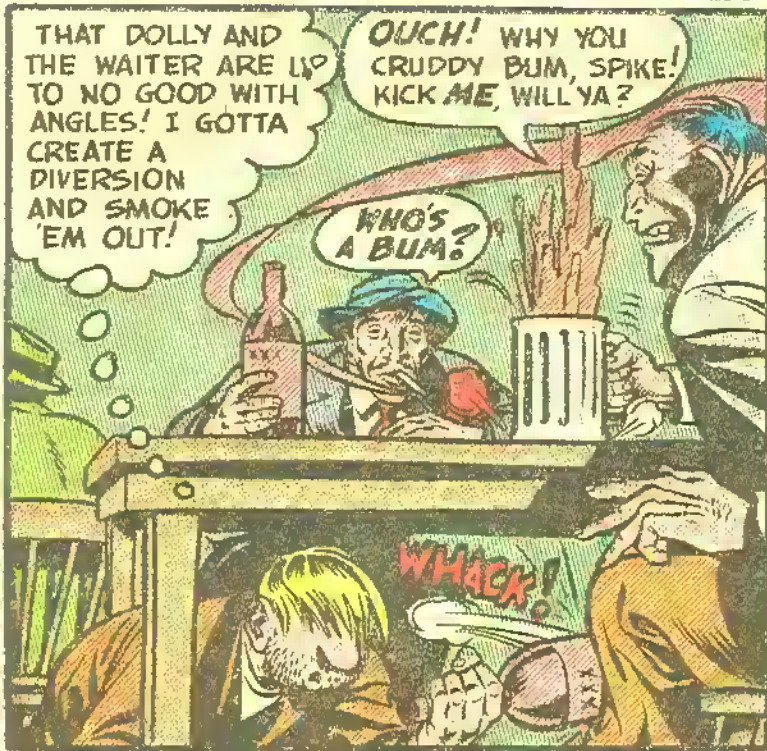
AND I
SAY YOU'LL
BLOW THE
WHOLE
DEAL!

MR.
O'DAY!
I MUST
SPEAK
WITH YOU!







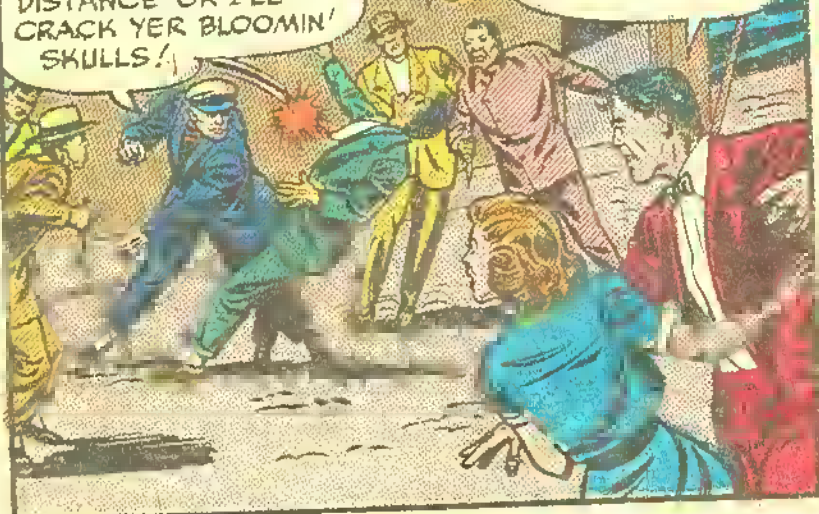


WE HADN'T TAKEN TWO STEPS DOWN THE LITTLE SIDE-STREET TO WONG HEI'S CELLAR RESTAURANT WHEN WE HEARD A SCREAM ...

AAIIII! AVAST THERE, YA BLASTED RICE-EATERS! KEEP YER DISTANCE OR I'LL CRACK YER BLOOMIN' SKULLS!

吳!

HMM... SOMEBODY'S IN DANGER OF WINDING UP AS DICED DUCK, CANTON STYLE!



HOLD OUT, MATE! WE'RE ANSWERING YOUR DISTRESS SIGNAL!

YEEOWW!

BLESS YA! I WAS ALMOST TORPEDOED, CUSS THEIR-BACK-STABBIN' HIDES!



THOSE BABIES WERE PLAYING FOR KEEPS! YOU COULD TELL BY THE WAY THEY KEPT COMING BACK WITH THEIR PIG-STICKERS ...

WHAT ARE THEY AFTER? THEY'RE TOO SORE FOR A STICKUP!

吳!

IT'S A LONG-STORY, MATE! LET'S TRY TO GET OUTA THIS ALIVE SO'S I CAN TELL IT!



NO MATTER WHAT WE DISHED OUT, THOSE RATS WOULDN'T SAY DIE! SO I SAID IT FOR THEM! I PULLED OUT MY .38!

THAT DONE IT! WHY DIDN'T YA LET 'EM KNOW YA HAD A ROSCOE BEFORE?

I'M FULL OF SURPRISES! LET'S TAKE IT ON THE LAM WHILE THE LAMMING'S GOOD!



WE LAMMED DOWN TO WONG HEI'S PLACE WHERE THE WOULD-BE VICTIM TURNED OUT TO BE A MERCHANT SEAMAN ~~NAME~~ TALCOTT! AS WE SETTLED DOWN TO WON-TON SOUP, MIKE PULLED A LITTLE PORCELAIN STATUE OUT OF HIS POCKET...

HERE'S WHAT THEM DEVILS WAS LETT!

A CHEAP PORCELAIN FIGURE! WHY, THEY CAN PICK IT UP ANYWHERE FOR FIFTY CENTS! WHERE'D YOU GET IT?



I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I HAD IT TILL I CAME OUTA THIS OPIUM JOINT! SOMEBODY MUST'VE SLIPPED IT INTO MY POCKET! IF I FIND THE CRUMB, I'LL RIP HIM TO PIECES!

IT MUST HAVE SENTIMENTAL OR SYMBOLIC VALUE, SINCE THOSE HATCHET MEN WERE WILLING TO RISK THEIR LIVES TO GET IT!



THEY MUST BE NUTS! YOU KEEP IT, MR. SHANNON! IT BRUNG ME NOTHIN' BUT BAD LUCK!

THANKS! I'M ALWAYS CURIOUS ABOUT THE THINGS MEN WILL DIE FOR! FILE THIS AWAY IN YOUR PURSE, DEE DEE!



FOR AN HOUR WE FORGOT THERE WERE KILLERS IN THE WORLD, AND WE ATE LIKE VULTURES! FINALLY, MIKE TOOK OFF! HE WAS NO SOONER OUT THE DOOR WHEN...



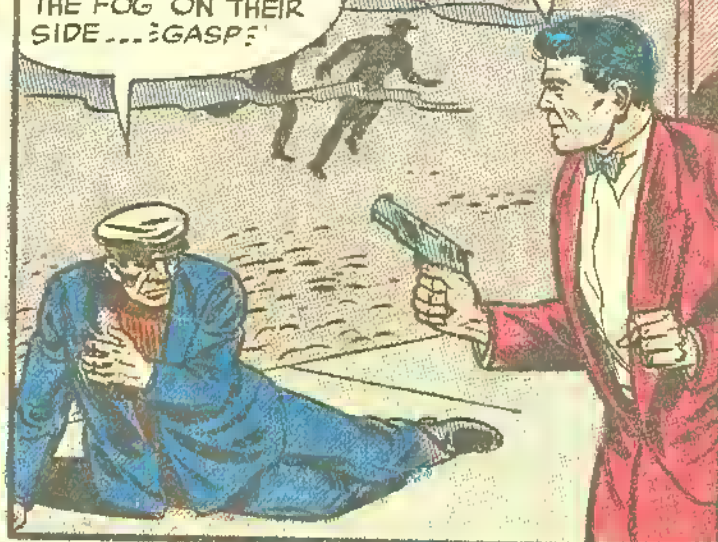
K-KEN!

I HEARD 'EM, BABY! THOSE TIGER HUNTERS ARE BACK AGAIN!

BUT BY THE TIME I REACHED THE DOOR, THE ASSASSINS HAD DONE THEIR DIRTY WORK!

OHhhh! D-DON'T FOLLOW 'EM...
GASP: T-THEY GOT THE FOG ON THEIR SIDE...GASP!

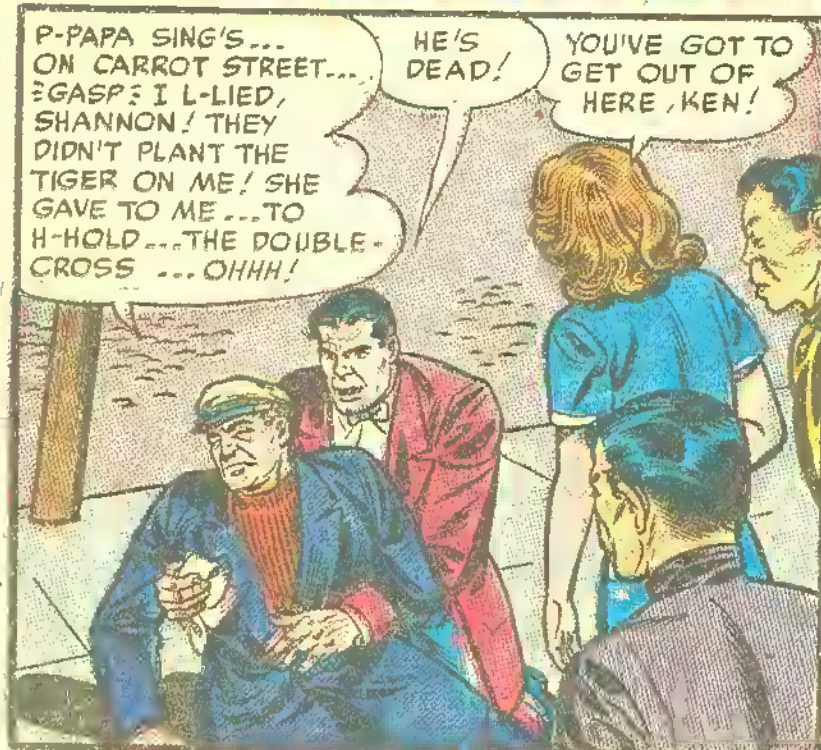
MIKE, WHERE'S THIS OPIUM DEN?



P-PAPA SING'S... ON CARROT STREET...
GASP: I L-LIED, SHANNON! THEY DIDN'T PLANT THE TIGER ON ME! SHE GAVE TO ME...TO H-HOLD...THE DOUBLE-CROSS... OHHH!

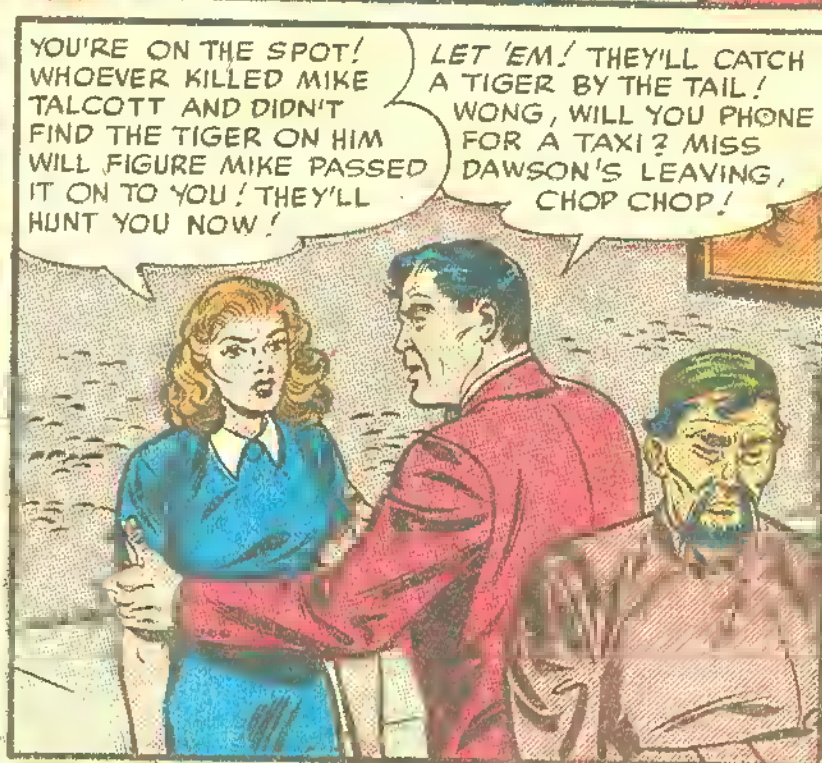
HE'S DEAD!

YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, KEN!



YOU'RE ON THE SPOT! WHOEVER KILLED MIKE TALCOTT AND DIDN'T FIND THE TIGER ON HIM WILL FIGURE MIKE PASSED IT ON TO YOU! THEY'LL HUNT YOU NOW!

LET 'EM! THEY'LL CATCH A TIGER BY THE TAIL! WONG, WILL YOU PHONE FOR A TAXI? MISS DAWSON'S LEAVING, CHOP CHOP!



BUT DEE DEE WAS ABOUT AS EAGER TO ESCAPE WITH THE STATUARY AS I WAS TO SEE HER HIT THE ROAD...

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU ALONE, KEN! ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN! AT LEAST, CALL THE POLICE!

LOOK, KID, I SMELL A BUCK IN THIS! AND RIGHT NOW THE SMELL OF MONEY IS LIKE NO OTHER AROMA IN THE WORLD! I'LL CALL THE POLICE IN GOOD TIME!



AT LAST, DEE TOOK OFF AND I TURNED TO WONG HEI...

WHEN THE COPS COME, YOU KNOW FROM NOTHING, WONG! I WASN'T HERE! YOU JUST HEARD SHOTS!

BUT WONG HEI HEAR WHAT DEAD MAN SAY! PAPA SING...IT IS EVIL PLACE! BAD MEN GO THERE...DOPE PEDDLER...GANGSTER! MISS DAWSON RIGHT! YOU BETTER CALL POLICE!



KEN SHANNON

BUT WONG HEI WAS AN OLD FRIEND AND OLD FRIENDS OFTEN DO FAVORS! SOON I WAS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR OF AN EVIL-SMELLING DUMP ON CARROT STREET...



A FRIEND OF MINE TOLD ME I COULD GET A HOP-STICK HERE!

YOU MAKE MISTAKE, NO HOP STICK HERE! GO 'WAY!

SORRY, JOHN! I HAPPEN TO LIKE MY GONGER!



YES? WHAT IS WRONG?

YOU MUST BE PAPA SING! EVER HEAR OF A MERCHANT SEAMAN CALLED MIKE TALCOTT? ON HIS DEATH BED HE RECOMMENDED YOUR DOPERIE!



MIKE DEAD?

VERY DEAD! LIKE THIS GUY LYING ON THE FLOOR! YOU MUST SERVE PRETTY STRONG DREAM WAX, PAPA! ONE SIDE, JOHNNY!



KNIFE JOB, EH? TEN TO ONE THIS IS THE CHARACTER WHO ALSO OWNED A TIGER!

YOU KNOW ABOUT TIGER, EH? MAYBE YOU KNOW WHERE TIGER IS?



YOU BET I DO! BUT IT'LL COST YOU PLENTY TO SHARE MY SECRET!

NO, MY FRIEND! IT'LL COST YOU PLENTY! SEIZE HIM!



I GUESS YOU CHUMPS DON'T KNOW I'M UNTOUCHABLE!

IDIOTS! CANNOT FIVE MEN HANDLE ONE?



THE ANSWER IS... NO!

URRRGHH!

KEN SHANNON

A SECOND LATER THE ROOM WAS PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS! GUN-FIRE CRISS-CROSSED WILDLY, MADLY PAST ME! SUDDENLY A SOFT HAND TOUCHED MY SHOULDER AND A SOFT VOICE CROONED IN MY EAR...



THIS WAY, QUICK! I KNOW A SIDE EXIT!

LEAD THE WAY! THIS HOT LEAD'S GETTING HOTTER!

I FOLLOWED THE GIRL'S PERFUME LIKE A FOUNDERING SHIP FOLLOWS A LIGHTHOUSE BEAM! SOON WE WERE OUT IN THE FOG AGAIN!

THANKS! NOW TELL ME WHY... WHY YOU HELPED ME! WHY A GIRL LIKE YOU IS HANGING AROUND PAPA SING'S DOPE DEN?

DON'T BOTHER EXPLAINING! IT'S THE GUMSHOE WHO BETTER COME UP WITH THE RIGHT ANSWERS!



NICK KREDA! IT'S A NIGHT OF SURPRISES! ISN'T THIS A LITTLE OFF YOUR REGULAR BEAT, NICK?

MY BEAT'S WHEREVER THE DOUGH IS! YOU KNOW WHERE THE DOUGH IS, SHAMUS! IT ALL ADDS UP TO YOU AN' ME HAVIN' IT OUT!

I'VE GOT A HEATER IN MY PEARLY WHITE, KREDA! YOUR PUMP MIGHT SPRING A LEAK BEFORE MINE DOES! WHAT GIVES THIS LITTLE TIGER STATUE THAT EVERYBODY'S COMMITTING BLOODY MURDER TO GET THEIR GREEDY MITTS ON IT?

STOP PLAYIN' FOOTSY WITH ME, SHAMUS! YOU KNOW THAT TIGER'S GUT IS FILLED WITH ICE! AND IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR GUT FILLED WITH LEAD...

SO THAT'S IT! THE TIGER TUMMY IS STUFFED WITH ILL-GOTTEN DIAMONDS AND RUBIES! WHO STUFFED IT, NICK! YOU?

I AIN'T "INFORMATION PLEASE"! ARE YOU HANDIN' OVER THAT TIGER OR DO WE SHOOT IT OUT?



I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE GIRL! BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, SHE HADN'T FORGOTTEN ME! NOT TILL I GOT A SHARP STICK IN THE SHOULDER BLADE, DID I REMEMBER HER!



I'VE GOT HIM, NICK! QUICK!

YOU DOUBLE-CROSSING HELLCAT! I'LL...

BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! EVEN AS I GOT OFF A FEW WILD SHOTS, THE ALLEYWAY WAS SWIMMING AROUND ME!



BANG! BANG!

GASP!

HE'S FADIN' FAST! GASP HIM!

SOMETHING EXPLODED IN MY HEAD, AND I SLIPPED RAPIDLY INTO A VELVETY DARKNESS WHILE A MERRY-GO-ROUND OF FACES WATCHED AND LEERED!



WHEN I CAME TO, I HAD THE TASTE OF BEER IN MY MOUTH! WHICH WASN'T SURPRISING! KREDA WAS USING IT TO REVIVE ME...

OKAY, SLEEPIN' BEAUTY... SPILL IT! THE TIGER, WHERE IS IT? WHEN CHOW LUNG'S HIBINDERS WENT THROUGH MIKE TALCOTT'S POCKETS, IT WASN'T THERE!

I'M A BUSINESS MAN, KREDA! NAME YOUR PRICE! I LIKE TO EAT ONCE IN A WHILE!



ALL YOU'LL EAT IS LEAD! WHERE'S THAT TIGER? OR SO HELP ME, SHAMUS, I'LL USE YOU AS A DART BOARD FOR BREAD KNIVES!



SUDDENLY I HEARD ANOTHER VOICE, AS IF IN MY DREAMS! HOW COULD IT BE ANYTHING BUT A DREAM TO FIND DEE DEE STANDING THERE?

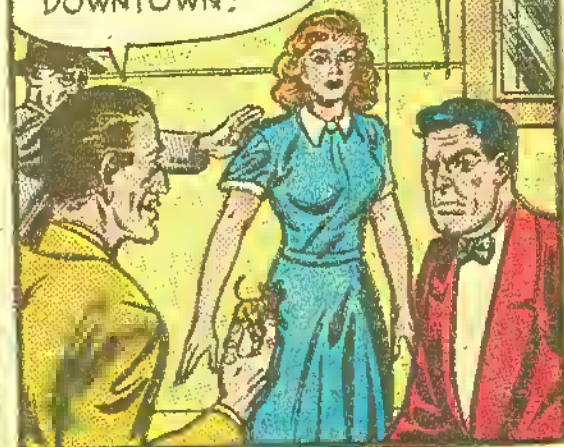
DID I HEAR SOMEONE MENTION A LITTLE TIGER FIGURE?

I FOUND THIS DAME SNOOPIN' AROUND OUTSIDE, NICK! SHE SAID SHE WAS SHANNON'S SECRETARY!



YEP, THIS'S THE PUSSY CAT WE'RE AFTER! GOT YOU ALL MIXED UP, EH, SHAMUS? IT'S REALLY SIMPLE! MY GANG AN' CHOW LUNG'S TEAMED UP TO DO AN ICE JOB DOWNTOWN!

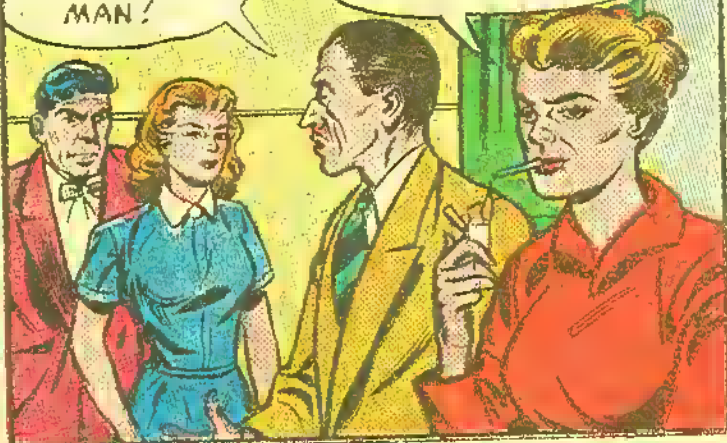
THEN CHOW LUNG DOUBLE-CROSSED YOU! HE RAN AWAY WITH THE LOOT!



BINGO! BUT MY BUNCH RAN AFTER CHOW! SHELLY HERE GOT INTO PAPA SING'S... THAT'S CHOW LUNG'S HEAD-QUARTERS... AN' SLIPPED A KNIFE INTO CHOW'S RIGHT HAND MAN!

THEN I PASSED THE TIGER TO SOME STUPID SAILOR WHO TOOK A SHINE TO ME IN THE DOPE DEN! I KNEW TALCOTT COULD SMUGGLE THE TIGER OUT! BUT THE RICE-EATERS GOT SUSPICIOUS AND FOLLOWED HIM!

KREDA AND THE BABE WERE SO TAKEN UP IN EXPLAINING HOW SMART THEY WERE, THAT FOR A FLEETING SECOND THEY TOOK THEIR EYES OFF YOURS TRULY! IT WAS ALL THE CHANCE I NEEDED...



TOO BAD, KREDA! THAT TIGER'S SLIPPERY! IT'S GOING TO GIVE YOU THE SLIP AGAIN!

H-HEY!



KEN SHANNON

KREDA'S GANG CAME UP WITH THEIR HEATERS, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! I ALREADY HAD KREDA'S ROSCOE IN MY OWN HAND...

N-NO MORE! WE GIVE UP DON'T SHOOT!

THEN DROP YOUR GUNS!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO GUZZLE STALE BEER, KREDA! AS FOR YOU, SISTER...

SPEAKING OF DIRE PUNISHMENTS, MR. SHANNON, HOW ABOUT ONE FOR YOURSELF?

I RECOGNIZED THE VOICE AND A SECOND LATER I RECOGNIZED THE GUN! IT WAS IN DEE DEE'S RIBS...

SMART SHAMUS! A WISE MAN IS ONE WHO KNOWS HE IS BEATEN! TAKE MR. KREDA... HE FIGHTS ON AND WHAT HAPPENS?

HE DIES! HE'S TOO STUPID TO LIVE!

ARRGH!

ANG BANG!

THE TIGER IS MINE... AT LAST! \$200,000 WORTH OF JEWELS... MINE!

ALL THAT'S YOURS, CHOW, IS A PORCELAIN TIGER WORTH FIFTY CENTS! ANOTHER THING THAT'S YOURS IS A...

RIGHT CROSS TO THE JAW!

CRACK!

A SECOND LATER, HOMICIDE LIEUTENANT ART CLYDE WALKED IN AND TOOK OVER! BUT NOT BY ACCIDENT! I'D TOLD DEE DEE TO SEND FOR THE POLICE AND HAVE THEM TRAIL HER...

AS LONG AS I HAD THE TIGER, I KNEW THE TWO MOBS WOULD BE BUSTING THEIR GUTS TRYING TO GET IT BACK! BUT, OF COURSE, I HAD MY GIRL FRIDAY PICK UP A SUBSTITUTE KITTY!

HERE'S THE REAL MCCOY, KEN!

YOU SEE, WHEN MIKE TALCOTT CAUGHT A BELLY-FULL, I KNEW THAT TIGER WAS A RARE TROPHY! SO I'D PUT ON A PERFORMANCE IN FRONT OF WONG HEI'S FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES!

KREDA'S DEAD, CHOW WILL GET THE CHAIR! AND YOU'LL GET A FAT REWARD! BUT TELL ME, KEN! WHAT IF I DIDN'T BUST IN IN TIME?

HE'D HAVE STALLED AROUND! I KNOW, LIEUTENANT! KEN'S STALLED ME OUT OF A MARRIAGE LICENSE FOR YEARS!

SURE, HONEY! ISN'T MATRIMONY A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH?

KEN SHANNON

LITTLE OLD LADY

STEVE CORBIN closed his office door quietly. He didn't want to disturb the little, old lady who was napping in his waiting room chair. She awoke with a start, "Are you Mr. Corbin?" she asked breathlessly. "I do hope so. I hurried right over to see you. I need your help." Just then, Steve's secretary came out of his private office, "Hello, Steve," she greeted, and then turned to the old lady. "You can come in here now, Miss Blakeslee." Miss Blakeslee hesitated, looking at Steve pleadingly. "I'll be with you in a moment," he said.

The name, Blakeslee, rang a bell with Steve and his secretary, Julia, filled him in on events up to now. "She's one of the famous Blakeslee sisters. The two old girls who stay penned up in that mansion downtown." "Yeah, I remember now," replied Steve. "What in the world does she want with a private detective?" Julia shrugged, "You got me! She wouldn't say a word. She's been here for two hours." Steve strode into his inner office.

Miss Blakeslee began pouring out her story. "My sister, Eva, has disappeared," she burst out. "Why have you come to me instead of informing the Bureau of Missing Persons?" Steve questioned. "Oh, we couldn't stand the bad publicity. Before father died, he cautioned us never to blacken the family name, never to marry anyone who might bring disgrace to the proud name of Blakeslee." "Well, suppose you tell me the story from the beginning, Miss Blakeslee," said Steve, quietly. She launched on the story of the family life up until the death of the father fifteen years earlier. Since then the sisters had lived like a pair of recluses, an existence that suited them well after years under the domination of a father who turned away their suitors and restricted their every pleasure. "We took occasional walks along the river. But the waterfront has become so noisy and boisterous over the last twenty years." Seems that during one of the sisters' daily walks, Eva had made eyes at a young man loitering about one of the piers. "Yes," said Miss Blakeslee, trembling. "I shudder to think of it, but Eva actually flirted with that young ruffian." The man followed them home, and at the door, introduced himself as Brian Ford, a sailor. Miss Blakeslee was sure that Eva met him after dark that night, and the next night, too. But it was on the third night that Eva disappeared, and with her, went a great deal of money. The girls kept all their worldly wealth hidden around the old mansion. "Don't you trust the banks?" asked Steve. She replied with vehemence, "I like to keep my money around me. Mr. Corbin, Eva was always talking about going to a bank with it, but I was sure she just wanted to go there to meet men. Eva's the younger sister, you know, and apt to be flighty. I'm sure that sailor had something to do with Eva's disappearance, Mr. Corbin. I just don't trust any men." Steve nodded, tight-lipped. He got a complete description of Eva, together with a picture taken many years previous and then he dismissed Miss Blakeslee, telling her he'd check and call her later.

On the docks, he located Brian Ford on the sailors' registry. He was hardly a young man, close to sixty. He readily admitted following the Blakeslee sisters home. "It was just for laughs, Mr. Corbin. Though this one you call Eva, was a nice, little lady. But the other sister, phew!" and he made a grotesque face. He said he asked Eva to go out, but she refused. He saw them taking the

daily walks the next three days and greeted them as they strolled by. "I haven't seen 'em since." When Steve got back to the office Julia spread the evening paper before him. The headlines told of the unidentified body of an older woman washed up out of the river a few miles downstream. Steve shook his head, "It's probably Eva," he said. "And I'll bet that sailor had nothing to do with it. He's unemployed now, but if he had all the dough that Miss Blakeslee claims is missing, why would he hang around? I don't trust that old dame's story." He rounded up Brian Ford, briefed him on a plan, and they headed for the Blakeslee mansion.

Miss Blakeslee opened the door. "What are YOU doing here," she snarled at Ford. He paused for a moment, but then entered the house at Steve's insistence. "I brought Mr. Ford along, Miss Blakeslee. He's come for Miss Eva's things. You mentioned the money was gone, but Miss Eva didn't take her clothes, did she?" "She asked me to come for 'em!" added Brian Ford. The old woman gazed about her wildly and then rushed into a room that led off the entrance hall, she came back wielding a poker. "Eva doesn't need any clothes," she said softly, gazing at the poker with a dreamy expression on her face. Then she shook the poker under the astonished sailor's nose. "I found this awhile ago, Brian Ford. See, it's all crusted with blood. You killed my sister with it and then stole her money. Give me back the money!" she screamed. Steve moved in slowly, as Brian stepped back. "You're interested in money, Miss Blakeslee. Has it occurred to you that it might cost you a lot of money to prove that Brian killed your sister?" She stood for a moment, then in a quick move, she darted out toward the sailor, waving the poker like a club. "Then I'll kill him now," she cried. Steve caught her arm just as it was descending. He was surprised at her strength and it was with an effort that he finally subdued her. She kept babbling, "Eva always wanted to spend money. That's what was wrong with her. Well, I wouldn't let her and I won't let anyone take it from me. It's all mine, now! All mine!"

Later, the police took over. As the story fitted together, Eva had wanted to buy some clothes to go out with Brian. It infuriated her sister so that an argument ensued and the old girl had taken up the poker and gone after poor Eva. During the night she had somehow managed to drag her body down to the river.

Back in his office, his secretary looked incredulous, "Not that dear, little, old lady?" "Yeah," answered Steve wearily, "that dear, little, old lady."

**FOLLOW
THE DARING EXPLOITS OF
KEN SHANNON
EVERY MONTH IN
POLICE
Comics**

KEN SHANNON

THE DOOM EXPRESS



FROM THE START, I HAD A HUNCH THAT COLLECTING DAN THE PUNK'S GAMBLING DEBT WOULD TURN OUT TO BE BLOOD-MONEY! BUT I WAS TOO-BUCK-HUNGRY TO VALUE MY HIDE! IT WAS A CHOICE BETWEEN THE WOLF AND THE GRIM REAPER AND, AS USUAL, I COULDN'T RESIST THE AROMA OF FILET MIGNON! SO I FOUND MYSELF HEADING FOR A STONE SLAB AT 80 MILES AN HOUR!

I WAS LINING MY SEE NINES WITH NEWS-PAPER HEADLINES AND WON-DERING HOW COOKED SHOES WOULD TASTE, WHEN A SHORT, NERVOUS GUY CAME INTO THE OFFICE!

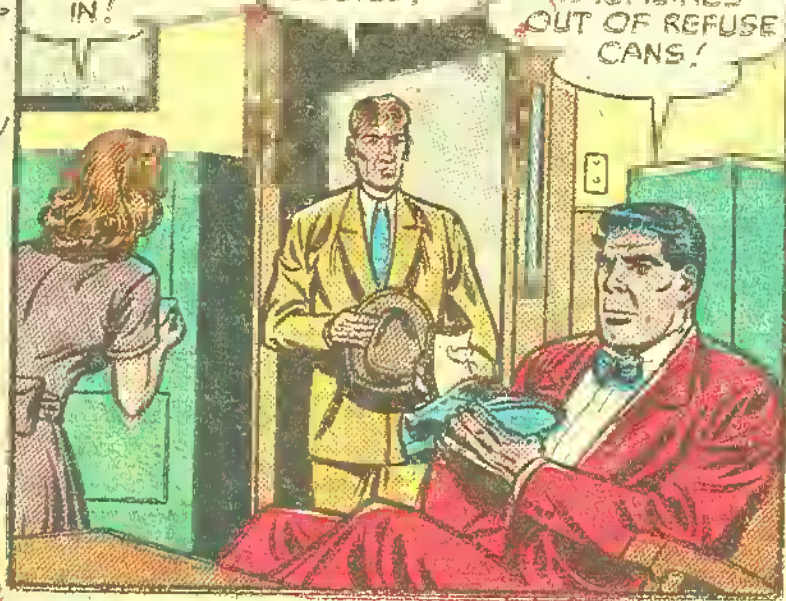
DON'T DROP DEAD, BOSS! A CUSTOMER JUST WALKED IN!

DON'T BE TOO SURE! I DON'T WANT MYSTERIES SOLVED!

IF YOU'RE SELL-ING MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS, I GET ALL MY MAGAZINES OUT OF REFUSE CANS!

WHO READS MAGAZINES? I'M STRICTLY A DOPE SHEET MAN MYSELF! I GOT A PROBLEM, SHANNON! A GUY OWES ME SIX GRAND! I WANT YOU TO COLLECT IT!

WHY CAN'T YOU COLLECT IT?



KEN SHANNON



I'M TOO SMALL! HE'S TOO BIG! BESIDES I'M AFRAID OF HIM!

THAT'S TOUGH! THEN I GUESS YOU'RE OUT SIX THOUSAND BUCKS! I'M A PRIVATE EYE, NOT A BILL COLLECTOR!



HOW ABOUT COLLECTIN' TEN BILLS LIKE THESE? YEP... EVERY ONE A CENTURY! COLLECT MY SIX GRAND, AND THE DOUGH IS YOURS, SHANNON!

HMMM... PAPA NEEDS A NEW PAIR OF SHOES! WHO'S THE COLLECTEE?



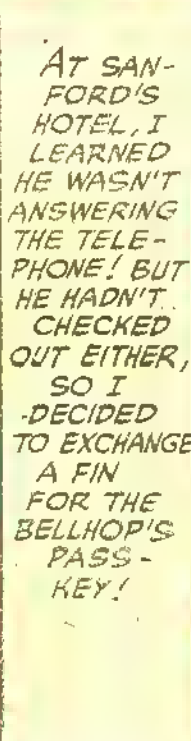
A GAMBLER BY THE NAME OF JUD SANFORD! SANFORD'S FLUSH NOW! HE TOOK THIRTY GRAND LAST NIGHT FROM NICK TURINO IN A POKER GAME!

FEW MEN HAVE DONE THAT... AND LIVED! WHAT'S SANFORD'S SECRET?



SANFORD'S NOBODY TO MESS AROUND WITH, EITHER! THINK I'D BE PAYIN' YOU A GRAND TO TAKE CANDY FROM A BABY? BY THE WAY, THE NAME'S DAN THE PUNK!

IT DOESN'T MATTER! I'LL FORGET YOU THE SECOND I COLLECT YOUR DOUGH! LET'S GO, DEE DEE!



AT SANFORD'S HOTEL, I LEARNED HE WASN'T ANSWERING THE TELEPHONE! BUT HE HADN'T CHECKED OUT EITHER, SO I DECIDED TO EXCHANGE A FIN FOR THE BELLHOP'S PASS-KEY!



GASP! WHO ARE YOU?

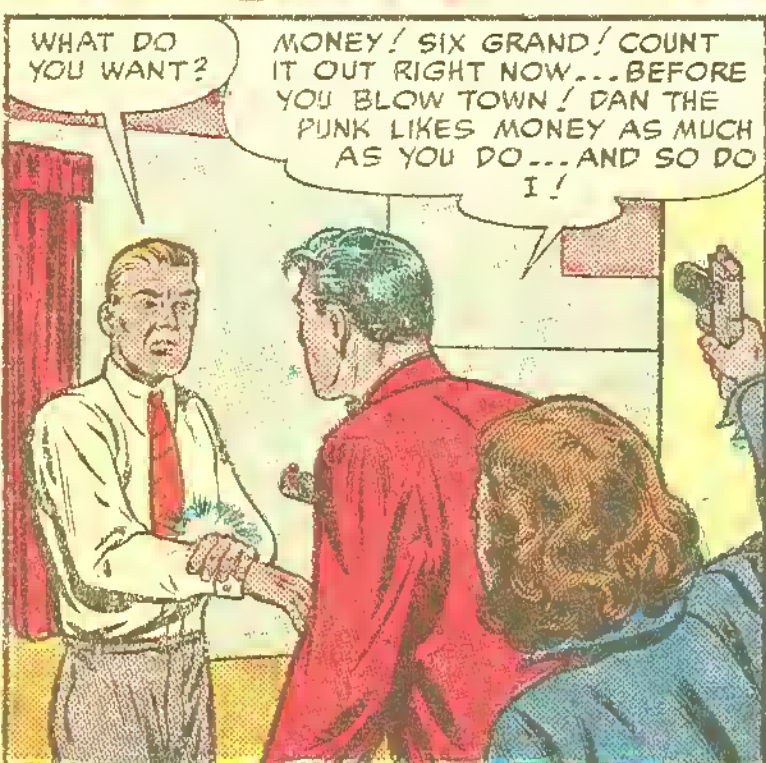
JUST A BILL COLLECTOR! I HEAR YOU DON'T PAY YOUR BILLS, SANFORD! THAT'S NOT NICE!



INSTEAD OF COMMENTING, SANFORD MADE A DIVE FOR HIS HOLSTER...

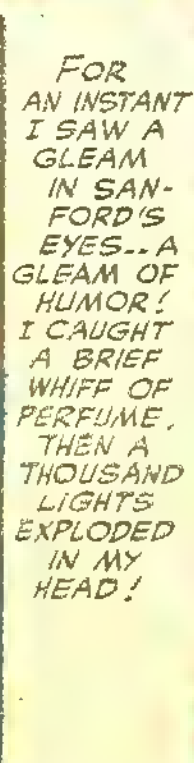
OH! OH!

DON'T PLAY ROUGH, SANFORD... IT MAKES ME NERVOUS, AND WHEN I GET NERVOUS I DO FUNNY THINGS... LIKE PULL TRIGGERS!



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

MONEY! SIX GRAND! COUNT IT OUT RIGHT NOW... BEFORE YOU BLOW TOWN! DAN THE PUNK LIKES MONEY AS MUCH AS YOU DO... AND SO DO I!



FOR AN INSTANT I SAW A GLEAM IN SANFORD'S EYES... A GLEAM OF HUMOR! I CAUGHT A BRIEF WHIFF OF PERFUME, THEN A THOUSAND LIGHTS EXPLODED IN MY HEAD!



NICE GOIN', BABY! THAT KAYO SAVED US SIX GRAND!

KEN SHANNON

WHEN I CAME TO, DEE DEE WAS PRESSING COLD COMPRESSES TO MY ICY BROW...

WHEN A HALF HOUR PASSED AND YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP, WE INVESTIGATED! WHAT HAPPENED?

I TURNED MY BACK TO A DAME... OWWW! WHAT AN EGG SHE RAISED!

IT MUST'VE BEEN SANFORD'S GIRL FRIEND, RITA! SHE'D BOIL HER MOTHER IN OIL FOR A PEARL NECKLACE!

I CHECKED ON SANFORD'S OUTGOING CALLS AND LEARNED HIS LAST CALL HAD BEEN TO THE RAILROAD TERMINAL...

HE MUST BE BLOWING TOWN!

THEN IT'S ALL OVER! TOO BAD ALL YOU'LL GET OUTA THE DEAL IS A LUMP ON THE HEAD, SHAMUS!

WHEN I GET A LUMP ON THE HEAD, REPULSIVE, SOMEBODY PAYS FOR IT! WHEN THAT TRAIN LEAVES TOWN, I'LL BE ON IT! LET'S GO, DEE DEE!

THAT'S THE KIND OF SHAM- US I LIKE! A BLOOD-HOUND WHO ALWAYS GETS HIS MAN!

WELL, WE MADE THE TRAIN! BUT FINDING SANFORD AND HIS SWEETIE WAS SOMETHING ELSE

WE'VE GONE THROUGH THIS TRAIN WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB BUT NOT A SIGN OF SANFORD! MAYBE HE PULLED A FAST ONE!

IF SANFORD AIN'T ON THIS TRAIN, A FRIEND OF HIS IS! THAT'S NICK TURINO SITTING OVER THERE!

HIYA, NICK! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SANFORD, TOO?

ALL I'M LOOKIN' FOR IS A BLACK SEVEN TO LAY ON A RED SIX! SCRAM, PUNK! AND TAKE YER CRUMMY FRIENDS WITH YOU!

HEY! LOOK WHAT YOU DONE! YOU RUINED MY GAME!

IT'S NOT ALL I'LL RUIN! APOLOGIZE TO THE LADY, TURINO... TELL HER YOU'RE THE CRUMB!

CRASH!

WHO THE HECK ARE YOU? YOU CAN'T GIVE ME ORDERS... URGHH!

TELL HER, TURINO! OR I'LL TWIST YOUR STUPID HEAD OFF! TELL HER YOU'RE A CRUMB!

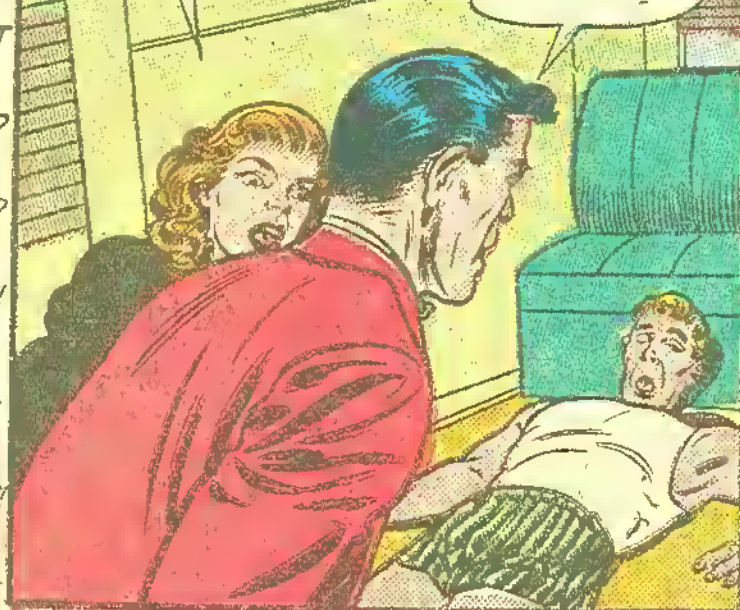
KEN SHANNON



I WASN'T ALWAYS SO ROUGH WITH CLIENTS! BUT DAN WAS THE KIND WHO CRAWLED OUT FROM UNDER A ROCK AND HAD TO BE TREATED ACCORDINGLY! I HAD PROOF OF THAT THE SECOND DEE DEE AND I ENTERED OUR COMPARTMENT!

IT'S SANFORD! HE'S DEAD!

STABBED! BUT WHY WAS HE STRIPPED AND DUMPED IN OUR COMPARTMENT?

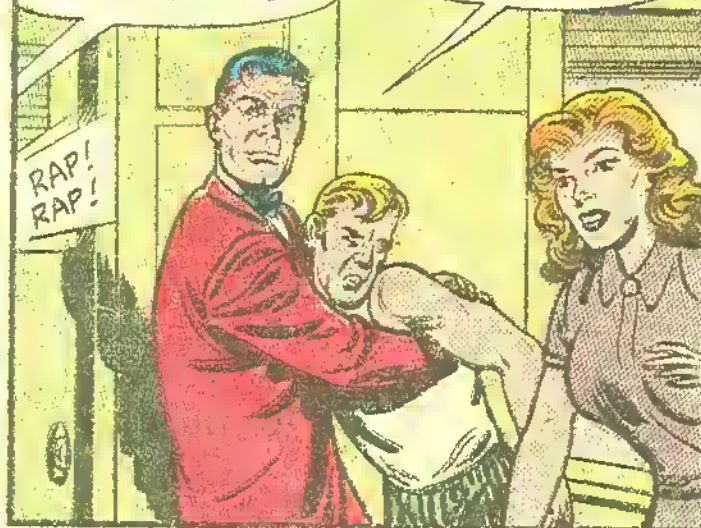


ONE OF THE ANSWERS CAME WITH THE KNOCK OF THE CONDUCTOR!

OPEN UP, PLEASE! SOMEBODY REPORTED A MURDER IN THIS COMPARTMENT!

GIVE ME FIVE SECONDS, DEE DEE! THEN TURN THE LOCK!

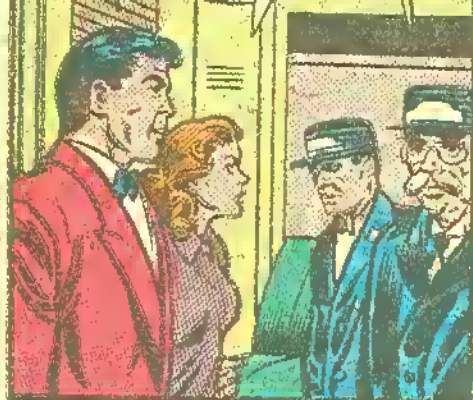
RAP! RAP!



SOMEBODY'S PLAYING A TRICK ON YOU, CONDUCTOR! THERE'S NO CORPSE IN HERE!

THAT'S A FUNNY! THIS WOMAN WAS VERY POSITIVE!

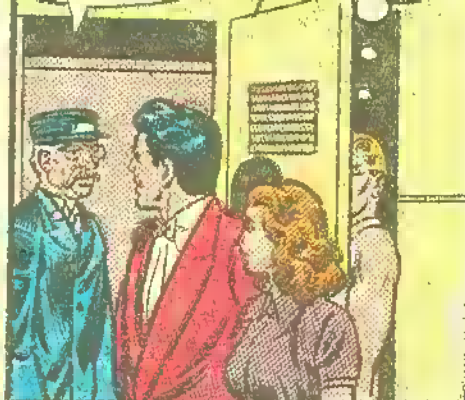
WOMAN?



A GOOD LOOKER! CAN'T UNDERSTAND SOMEBODY MAKING SUCH A MISTAKE! A CORPSE IS NOTHING TO JOKE ABOUT!

PARTICULARLY IF YOU'RE THE CORPSE!

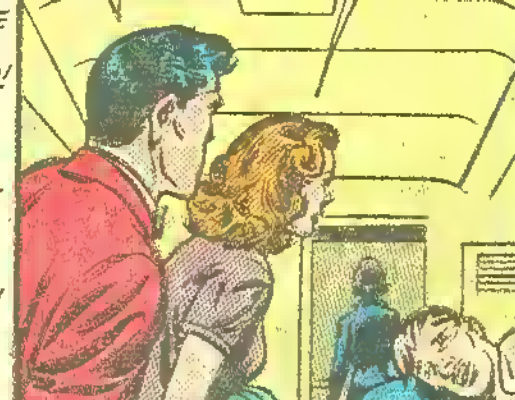
SO RITA REARS HER BLOODY HEAD AGAIN!



WE LOCKED THE COMPARTMENT DOOR AND WENT HUNTING FOR RITA THIS TIME! THE TRAIN WAS FAIRLY DESERTED! MOST PEOPLE WERE IN DREAMLAND! BUT NOT RITA...WE SPOTTED HER STANDING ON THE OBSERVATION PLATFORM!

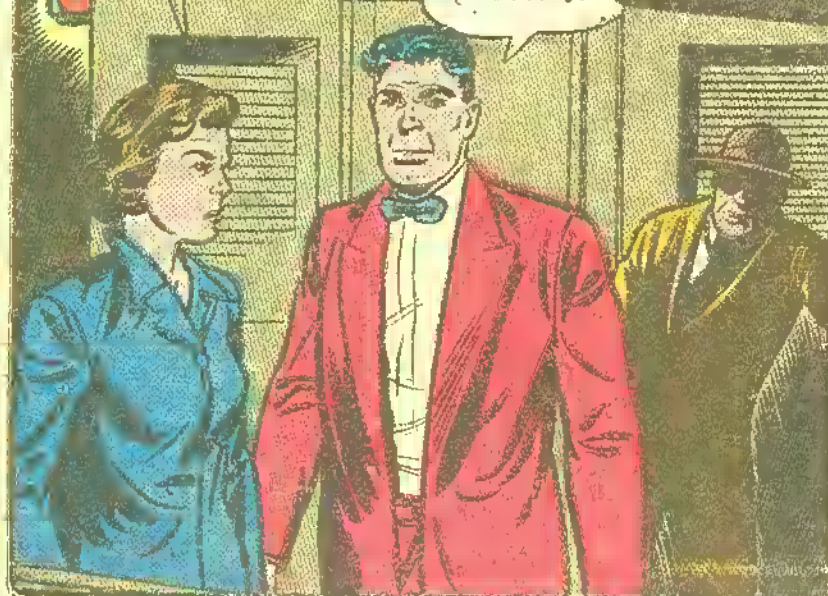
LOOKS LIKE A COME-ON TO ME! DUCK BEHIND A SEAT, DEE DEE! IF I RUN INTO TROUBLE, SCREAM THE BLOODY ROOF OFF THE TRAIN!

OKAY, BOSS! BUT BE CAREFUL! THIS FEMALE IS A MAN-KILLER!



EVENING, SHAMUS! HOW DOES YOUR NOGGIN FEEL?

CONSIDERING HOW YOU TREAT OTHER MEN... SANFORD, FOR EXAMPLE! I'M LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!



BUT YOUR LUCK'S RUN OUT! REACH, GUMSHOE! I'M SMALL AND MY GUN'S SMALLER! BUT A LITTLE DENT IN THE PUMP KILLS THE BIGGEST MEN!

DAN THE PUNK! WHEN DID YOU JOIN THIS HELLCAT?



KEN SHANNON

SINCE I'D BEEN BRIBED TEN GRAND IF I SICKED YOU OFF THE CASE! WITH SANFORD DEAD, I'M GOING TO MAKE UP THAT SIX GRAND I LOST... OVER YOUR DEAD BODY!

STOP GABBING AND LET HIM HAVE IT!



BUT DEE DEE CHOSE THAT MOMENT TO BARGE IN...

WHEN I SAW THE SHADE GO DOWN, KEN, I FIGURED SOMEBODY WANTED TO RING DOWN YOUR CURTAIN!

YOU COULDN'T HAVE TIMED IT BETTER, HONEY!

OOOFF!



HOLY SMOKES! H-HE'S GOING OVER!



YIIIIII!



H-HE'S GONE!

DON'T THINK HE DIDN'T DESERVE IT! BUT FORGET THE PUNK! LET'S FIND RITA!



WE FOUND RITA, ALL RIGHT! SHE WAS ON THE PLATFORM OF THE NEXT CAR, LEANING AGAINST THE DOOR! HER EYES WERE STARING, BUT NOT AT US!

SHE'S BEEN STABBED! LOOK AT THE RENTS IN HER DRESS WHERE THE KNIFE PASSED THROUGH!

THAT'S IT, DEE DEE! THE CLOTHING STRIPPED FROM SANFORD'S BACK MUST BE SPORTING KNIFE HOLES, TOO!



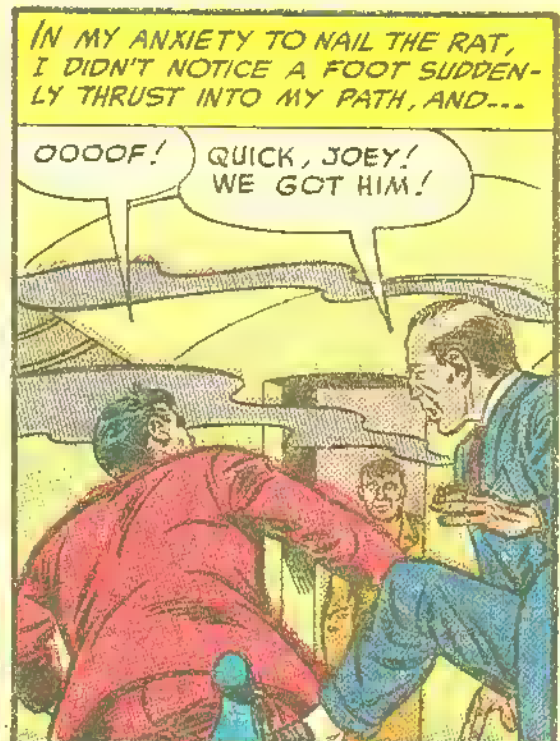
A BRAINSTORM SUDDENLY HIT ME! NOW I KNEW WHY SANFORD HAD BEEN STRIPPED! SOMEBODY STRIPPED HIS CLOTHES! AND WHY? FOR A DISGUISE! BUT WHAT DISGUISE?

THERE ARE ABOUT FIFTY PEOPLE WE DIDN'T LOOK AT WHEN WE ORIGINALLY HUNTED FOR SANFORD! MEN IN ARMY UNIFORM! IT NEVER DAWNED ON US THAT MAYBE SANFORD WORE AN ARMY UNIFORM TO ESCAPE DETECTION!

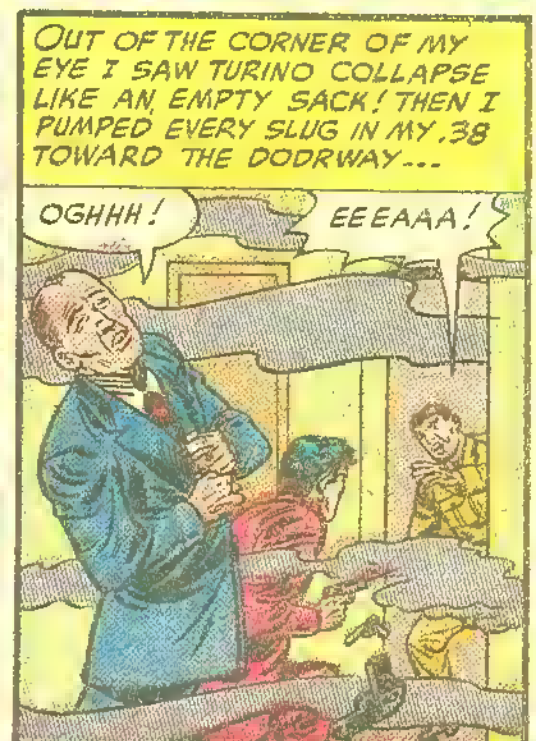
THEN THE KILLER WOULD BE WEARING THE UNIFORM SANFORD WORE!



KEN SHANNON



DESPERATELY I HEAVED MY BODY TO THE RIGHT! GUNS EXPLODED FROM TWO DIRECTIONS! I FELT A STING IN MY ARM AS I ROLLED ON THE FLOOR! BUT I ALSO HEARD A SCREAM!



OF COURSE, I HAD THE SATISFACTION OF SEEING JUSTICE DONE TO TURINO AND HIS HATCHET-MAN! ALSO THE SATISFACTION OF HAVING LENT EXCITEMENT TO THE CONDUCTORS' LIVES!





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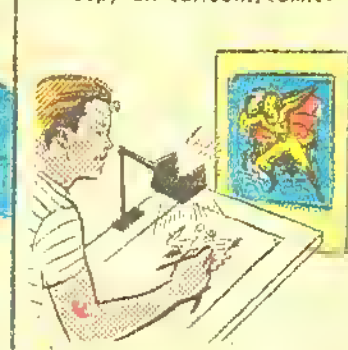
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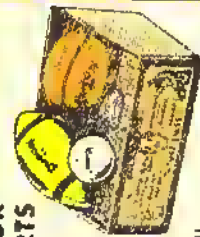
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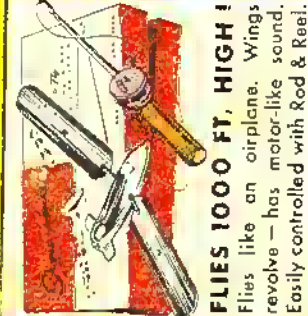
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